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# AGAWAM

## ADVERTISER NEWS

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### COLLEEN CORONATION

## St. Patrick's Committee celebrating 15th year

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

This weekend, the Agawam St. Patrick's Day Committee will celebrate the crowning of their 15th Colleen, bringing with it the culmination of an event that started "without a home."

Robert Magovern, a former city councilor, was a charter member of the Agawam Irish Committee.

He wanted to march in the St. Patrick's Day parade in Holyoke, but found he was not able to because Agawam did not take part in the float and Colleen contests.

"We researched and received a full list of requirements from the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Committee," said Magovern.

Magovern and Angela Phillips were named the co-chairs of the first committee, which held its first informal meeting at Friendly's in Agawam. The committee would have meetings all over town, including the Agawam Public Library, Bethany Assembly of God, and Agawam Junior High School.

In four months, the small committee was able to name a parade marshal, hold a Colleen contest with a coronation ceremony, and raise

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### Land o' flakes



Two snowstorms last week covered Agawam and surrounding towns in a blanket of white. At left, Bob Eggelston of Agawam pushes his son Brett, 8, down the hill at Southwick-Tolland Regional High School. Inset, Hannah Cahill, 12, balances on her snowboard while enjoying the aftermath of the late January blizzard. The hill is a popular sledding area in the region. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

### AHS DRAMA CLUB

## Student actors stand against bullying

By Mike Lydick  
aan@turley.com

Members of the AHS Drama Club delivered a commanding performance about the terror and the horror of bullying before an audience nearly 500 seventh and eighth graders.

For nearly a half hour last Friday afternoon, an ensemble cast of more than 20 students performed "Thank You for Flushing My Head in the Toilet." The fictional, one-act play was written as a way to show teenagers the causes and effects of bullying. The play revolves around three main characters: Achilles, Helen and Glinda.

Achilles and Helen are two high school students who are being bullied. Achilles is the regular target of a bully who flushes his head in the toilet. Helen is ridiculed by a group of girls, to the point where she's constantly finding excuses to be late for school. Glinda is the "cool girl" who appears from another universe as their "bully buddy."

Glinda offers Achilles and Helen a way out of their bullying experiences — and they jump at the chance. But they soon realize that Glinda's solution is to make



In the final, Columbine-like scene of the AHS Drama Club's production of "Thank You for Flushing My Head in the Toilet," a trench coat-clad Achilles (Darren Lussier, center) reacts to his bullying experiences by "shooting" students who tormented him. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK

them into bullies. When Achilles and Helen resist, Glinda "sends" them to a school in an alternate universe that's even worse than the one they left. Their only means of escape is to try it Glinda's way.

Saving themselves forces Helen to become like the girls who have tormented her. Achilles continues to resist becoming a bully — but faces more taunts and humilia-

tion. This leads to a Columbine-like final scene when Achilles, wearing a dark trench coat and dark glasses, "shoots" the bullying students, including Helen.

Darren Lussier portrayed Achilles. Lussier, only 15 and a sophomore, said the role helped him to realize what "it feels to be severely bullied, as well as how it

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### CITY COUNCIL

## Proposal would give extra scrutiny to Mayor's hires

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

Department heads hired by the mayor would have to be confirmed by the City Council under a charter change proposed by Councilor Anthony Suffriti.

At its next meeting, the council will discuss Suffriti's proposed resolution that would petition the state Legislature to amend section 3-3 of the town's home rule charter.

The charter change would be subject to voter approval. If the measure is approved, a ballot question would then appear on the election ballot this fall, when city councilors and the mayor are up for election.

Mayor Richard Cohen, who has been mayor 12 of the past 14 years, says he is against the amendment and believes it undermines the choice voters made 25 years ago.

"In 1989, we voted to establish a mayoral form of government in order to avoid issues like this," said Cohen. "We have a 'strong mayor' form of government established for this reason."

Cohen says allowing the executive branch of the town government

to appoint department heads takes the politics out of administration. "If the council had to approve every single appointment, then we would not be able to get anything done," said Cohen. "When there is a department head that has to be appointed, we need to hire the most qualified individual possible."

Councilor Anthony Suffriti said he brought forward the resolution with some feedback from taxpayers in town. "It's not a knock against [any] previous or the current administration," said Suffriti. "It is just another check and balance that protects the town in the future." Suffriti says his resolution simply brings the question to the voters. "My resolution puts it on the ballot so the taxpayers can decide if they want more control over who gets appointed to department heads," said Suffriti.

Cohen said he does respect the right of the council and potentially the voters to weigh in on the issue.

Cohen says he has had successful department head appointments during his tenure as mayor.

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# Strategies to improve school safety not new to Agawam

## Superintendent says ‘no stone is left unturned’ to ensure safe schools

By Mike Lydick  
aan@turley.com

Agawam has made school safety one of its priorities for nearly a decade. When a state task force on school safety and security issued its recommendation recently, many of its recommendations were already in place in Agawam schools.

The task force was established one year ago by former Gov. Deval Patrick to identify strategies to make schools safer. With the creation of the task force, Superintendent William Sapelli decided to perform another review of the district’s school safety and security procedures.

The task force issued its recommendations this past summer, just about the time Sapelli hired retired Agawam principal Theresa Urbinati on a part-time basis to start evaluating the district’s procedures and plans.

“The task force report provided an opportunity to revisit our safety and security procedures,” said Superintendent William Sapelli. “We wanted to review the report and to look at what Agawam has in place to see if the procedures are still appropriate and to see what might need to be changed to make our safety procedures better.”

Urbinati reviewed Agawam’s procedure

manuals, inventoried safety and security equipment, and went over the recommendations of the task force. During a presentation to the School Committee at its Jan. 9 meeting, Urbinati outlined key recommendations of the task force report for the committee. She also explained that Agawam has implemented most of the key safety policies and practices recommended in the report.

One of the most vital and comprehensive resources in use by the district is an emergency preparedness procedures guide developed several years ago for school personnel. The guide — a bright orange spiral-bound booklet — hangs in all classrooms and offices at each school.

### Step-by-step crisis procedures

Updated annually, it provides staff with step-by-step procedures on how to respond immediately to more than a dozen different types of crisis situations. The district used a grant from the Emergency Response and Crisis Management grant from the U.S. Department of Education to pay for the development of the guide.

The guide includes sections on how to respond to emergencies such as exposure to hazardous materials, death on campus, school bus accident, natural disasters and severe weather emergencies, utility malfunctions, fights, gangs/group violence, out-of-control student, suicide intent or attempt, violence, and weapons or hostage situation.

The guide — which is designed in a “flip-

chart style” — provides quick access to each section that has detailed instructions and important phone numbers. The purpose of the guide is to help school staff to “prioritize notification of emergency personnel” and “contain escalation and injury during the initial impact of the crisis.”

### District continually assesses, plans, and prepares

Sapelli said the district continually assesses, plans, and prepares for school emergencies. From “tabletop drills” that go through various emergency and crisis scenarios to plans to evacuate students to off-site locations, if needed, to making sure police and fire departments have updated and detailed schematics of each school, Sapelli said school leadership works to ensure that “no stone is left unturned” when it comes to school safety.

“We talk about many possible worst-case scenarios with everyone who has a role in ensuring school safety — building maintenance, Emergency Management Services, police and fire departments — to tweak existing plans and procedures as needed,” he said.

Sapelli added that many of the procedures the district has for responding to a crisis or emergency aren’t always publicly discussed to avoid disclosing certain strategies and procedures. “That’s why many people aren’t aware of all the things that we do when it comes to safety and security,” he added.

## Tryouts Monday for first ‘Agawam Idol’

The Springfield Turnverein is holding the first-ever Agawam Idol singing contest. After two postponements due to snow, the tryouts for the contest will be held on Monday, Feb. 9, beginning at 6 p.m. Sign up at 413-786-0924.

There is no cost to try out; those who are chosen to compete in the main event will pay a \$35 entry fee. The grand prize for the winner will be six hours of professional recording time and \$250 cash. Second prize is \$150.



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Each week the Agawam Advertiser News digs into its submitted photo archives and selects a people photo to publish. We need your help to help identify those pictured. Email your answers by Monday at noon to [mballway@turley.com](mailto:mballway@turley.com). Please include your first and last name.

\*\*\*

Last week’s photo: Correctly identifying Ruth Zucco were her daughter, Paula Rodier, who said, “I was surprised but happy to see it because she was so involved in so many clubs and organizations in the town of Agawam,” Richard Theroux, Paula Raiche and Joe Rolland.

\*\*\*

Correctly identifying Barbara Skolnick from the previous week was Judy Potter.



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# Report: Schools prepared to deal with emergencies

State school safety task force recommendations already in use

By Mike Lydick  
aan@turley.com

Agawam schools have a number of hand-held two-way radios, but they need more, plus a base unit, to be fully prepared to deal with a crisis or emergency.

That was one of the recommendations made by retired Agawam principal Theresa Urbinati during a presentation last month to the School Committee. Since retiring as principal of Phelps School last June, Urbinati has been working part-time to assess how well Agawam schools are prepared to respond to emergencies.

Urbinati told the committee on Jan. 9 that many of the policies and practices recommended by a state school safety and security task force have been in place in Agawam for several years. The report, which was presented to former Gov. Deval Patrick this past July, offered a framework of recommendations districts can take to prevent, prepare, respond, and recover from an emergency.

Among those safety and security prevention recommendations in the report currently in place in Agawam schools:

- A positive school climate
- Student conflict resolution and anti-bullying programs
- Collaboration with other town departments on safety and security
- Security measures to limit access to main entrances and monitor entrances
- Regular fire, lockdown, and fire drills
- Assessments to determine current safety vulnerabilities and strengths of schools
- Trained school resource officers in schools
- Locked doors with an entrance buzzer/intercom and video monitor
- Classroom windows and doors numbered both inside and outside



Retired Agawam principal Theresa Urbinati previews a new PowerPoint presentation on school safety and security at the Jan. 9 school committee meeting. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY MIKE LYDICK

force, there are still some things the district can do to enhance school safety. Urbinati said there are several communication elements that need to be addressed.

Agawam schools have relied on old intercom systems for years. Urbinati said she has no idea how old the systems are, but indicated that it's possible that many in the town's eight school buildings are still using the original systems installed when they were built.

"We've had three intercom systems replaced this year, with a fourth one in the midst of being repaired," she added. Urbinati said the systems are "costly" to replace or repair.

Problems with and limitations of intercom systems are one reason schools are relying more on two-way radios for communication. When Urbinati inventoried the number of radios, however, she found 70 radios among all the schools. She said the district needs about 40 additional radios.

In addition to more two-way radios, Urbinati said it's necessary that the central office acquire a base radio so the superintendent can communicate to all schools. She said superintendents in most other school districts

and security measures at schools is another area that Urbinati said has been identified by the district as an area that needs improvement. Through a grant, Urbinati and Assistant Superintendent Allison LeClair are developing a brochure that will be distributed to parents at kindergarten registration and to families of new students entering the district.

Urbinati also previewed a new PowerPoint presentation designed to help regular visitors to the schools — such as parents who volunteer — become familiar with the safety and security procedures. The presentation will be available soon on each school website as well as the district's website. It will also be shared with school PTOs.

The presentation provides visitors with a quick overview of what they need to do to keep schools safe and secure. It starts with the security buzzer and intercom at all main school entrances and goes on to explain about a lockdown or shelter-in-place situations that could occur while a visitor is in the school.

Either situation could be triggered if conditions outside the building are deemed un-



School committee members Anthony Bonavita and Wendy Rua listen to a presentation on school safety and security at the Jan. 9 meeting.

appreciated getting an update on what the district is doing in regards to school safety. Anthony Bonavita called the presentation "very informative."

Wendy Rua thanked Urbinati for her presentation, saying it was something she had been asking for "a long time." She called the presentation "phenomenal," adding that it answered many questions that she has had for "quite some time."



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# Opinion

## OUR VIEW

### Hearts and Darts

**H**EARTS to the Agawam Early Childhood Center for putting on the recent “Keys to Kindergarten” presentation at the Agawam Public Library. Starting school is one of the biggest transitions a young child makes, and young parents — still closer to spooning baby food and changing diapers than helping with science projects and figuring out the new New Math — can all use a little advice on how to prepare their kids. And what underlays all of their advice? Talk. Talk to your pre-kindergartener. Read books together, narrate your chores together, observe the world together. It may be more efficient to sit your child down with her toys and go prepare dinner yourself. But children don’t start learning on the first day of kindergarten; until then, the world is their classroom, and their parents, with a little help from the likes of the ECC, are the best teachers.

**DART** to Old Man Winter, blocking our roads, freezing our pipes, canceling our classes and sports games and special events. We were ready to give you a “heart” for sparing us the worst of the late January blizzard, but then you had to follow it up with bone-chilling temperatures and another round of snow this week. Sledding hills are great and the ski report in the Berkshires is tempting. Mr. Frost, but some of us have work to do and places to go. All right, how about just one more storm — we know they’re predicting snow this weekend — and let’s call it quits for the year. Phone that groundhog and see if we can have a mulligan on that “six more weeks” business.

**HEARTS** to the return of Partners Restaurant — even if it has to be in West Springfield. As great as it is to see a local business start up and thrive, it’s even more heartwarming to see one of our neighbors come back from adversity. It was a tough 2014 for Mark and Sue Tansey, but they aren’t letting last year’s fire keep them apart from their loyal patrons, who have been asking for months about the restaurant’s planned return. Hopefully their new venture at The Cup on Route 20 is a success, with many Agawam residents crossing the town line and many new customers getting to know them in West Springfield. And hopefully they can refurbish and reopen their former location, on Springfield Street in town, to give their expanded circle of fans two locations for their favorite dishes.

## Letter to the Editor

### Thanks to our special friends

The benefit dinner for my husband, Bill Euliano, held at the Sacred Heart Parish Center on Jan. 22, 2015, was a great success. We are most grateful to our friends for putting on this well organized and well-executed event for Bill. There was a wonderful blend of friends, new and old, neighbors, family and townspeople. They represented the very best in people who opened their hearts in support of Bill at this time. It was very moving for us to see such camaraderie and warmth being given to my husband as he contends with cancer.

A very special thanks go to Anthony and Adele Bonavita, Chris Catjakis, John and Cyndi Negrucci, Bob and Pat Lloyd, Mim and Nancy Malone and Ed Borgatti for brainstorming to put this benefit on. They put it all out there with media coverage, fliers, ticket sales and menu planning. Their effort was evident by the full hall and meticulous presentation by the entire team on the committee.

Other helpers who made everything go smoothly were Bill Tessicini, his son Anthony with Boy Scout Troop 77, David Vechiarelli, Nora Bruno, her daughter Nina, sons Nicholas and Antonio, Franca Bonavita, Nate Adamski, Lauren Malone, Emily Potter and Samuel Castillo. Special thanks goes to Father Steve Amo for his help in this project.

There also was a raffle with many prizes that made for an exciting evening.

We are deeply moved and humbled by the effort, love, and dedication our very special friends gave us at this very trying time in our lives.

Thank you to all from our hearts with much love and respect,

**Susan and Bill Euliano**  
Feeding Hills



## YESTERDAY'S HOMETOWN NEWS

### Alice (DeForge) Quick

**T**he Morris boys recently gave me their dad’s May 14, 1943, junior-senior promenade booklet. It was identical to Rose Velata’s, which was saved by Cindy Morrisette. Their dad, Herby Morris, danced the third song, a fox trot, with Alice D., who was likely Alice DeForge ’44. Alice was the daughter of the well-known and popular Jasper DeForge, who went down to Riverside with school superintendent Benjamin Phelps to recruit Harm Smith. Alice married Ted Quick of Alabama and they raised their family at 5 Church St. Their son Kevin ’76 played football at AHS and their daughter Kathleen went to Cathedral. Ted showed me the pictures he and Alice have on their walls and he gave me Alice’s 1944 Sachem.

Alice passed away in 2008 and she is obviously missed dearly by Ted. Alice was described in her yearbook as tall and slim with nice dark hair. Maybe some of you remember Alice working as a waitress in the ’40s at the West Side Howard Johnson’s or as the school secretary at the Robinson Park Elementary School, where she worked for 30 years.

The ’57 championship football team had a mini-reunion in early January. Ken Mutti ’60, Mickey Juzba ’61 and Lenny Charest ’60 had

some good stories to share. Ken remembers having Andy Anderson’s (’54) mom for fifth grade at Danahy. She used to bring in sports clippings about Andy to show to the class. Mickey remembers the time Mr. Dacey, in a school assembly, thanked the unknown student who had entered his name in a Big E contest. Mr. Dacey had won a hearing aid. Lenny remembers working at Riverside Park and getting a free haircut from Frank Rescigno. Mr. Carroll, who owned Riverside, had Frank set up in a trailer to make sure his workers looked neat and trim.

Many of the team members autographed a piece of the 1957 goalpost. It will be on display in our town library in May. If you have any AHS late ’50s or early ’60s memorabilia for the display, call the class of ’63 at 413-896-2236.

Others at the reunion were Andy Anderson, Ralph Slate, Steve Hayes, Ed Govoni, Walt McCarthy, Charlie Gibson, Tom Clark, Joe and Ed Modzelewski, Ralph Zavarella, Charlie Clark, Frank Salvadio, Bob Rossi and Dan Tomasseti.

David Monahan, in a previous column, should have been David Monaghan. My fault. David lived at 67 Monroe St. in 1955

HOMETOWN | page 5

## CALL TO THE CAUSE

### How did we get here? How do we get there?

**S**ometimes it’s hard to believe that it has been over four years since my family and I relocated from Florida to Western Massachusetts. When I stop to reflect upon what these years have meant to me, I am struck by a number of things.

First and foremost, I have had the good fortune of meeting some truly outstanding people. This region is blessed with many talented, caring, generous, and supportive individuals. I’m often overwhelmed by the number of people throughout greater Springfield who have dedicated their careers and personal lives to improving the lives of others.

Just think about the great strides our region has made in the way of improving our education system, decreasing our rate of teen pregnancies, reducing the number of violent crimes, providing more opportunities for seniors to enjoy their golden years, preventing more teens from turning to gang activity, giving people the chance to live healthier — the list goes on and on. ... None of this success would be possible without the vision and commitment of those who make it their life’s



**Kirk Ray Smith**  
Guest Columnist

work to positively impact the lives of others.

Continuing to meet the growing needs of this region is hard work. There is absolutely no doubt about that! But, do you ever stop to think about why it has to be so difficult? Why is it that with so many truly amazing people, businesses and foundations pushing relentlessly for positive change, we don’t hear about or see more of the good things happening?

Well, just as I have encountered many wonderful people here, I’m sad to say that I’ve also seen striking evidence of classism, bigotry, racism, homophobia, sexism, etc. ... Unfortunately, the behavior of a few can deter the behavior of the masses. Sadly, we see the toxic actions of this minority spread like poison amongst every city and town in this region.

Fighting this negative behavior in order to do what’s right for our community is beyond exhausting. In a region where the potential is virtually limitless, we see many great people pack up their bags and head to other places

CAUSE | page 5



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Agawam High cheerleaders in October 1940, from left, George Guidi, Louise Mandirol, Madeline Ehrhardt, Ruth Phelps, Lorraine Ardizoni and Wally Gulliver. SUBMITTED PHOTO

**HOMETOWN** ■ from page 4

when he was the Brownie quarterback. His former home sits on the southeastern corner of Willard Avenue, which now has a beautiful sign on the School Street end. That's my favorite street sign, eclipsing the Walter Way sign down on south Main Street. Don't forget who has the unofficial world record for riding a bicycle on Willard Avenue. We Baby Boomers are hoping a developer someday creates Lois Lane and Della Street. Those would be great signs.

The Main Street light at the corner of Meadow gets me nine times out of 10. This Christmas season while waiting, I many times looked over at Joe DePalo's house and

wished I had a video of his Christmas display. Although we should be grateful to the families that now have inflatable Christmas figures, without them we wouldn't have much. How different they are from Joe DePalo's. When my kids were young, they could go by five nights a week if you'd drive them. Mr. DePalo must have a great display in heaven.

*Walt Willard went to AHS and taught math there for 16 years. He can be reached at 413-786-7924. Call him. Walt loves your feedback and any and all information or tidbits you can offer.*

**CAUSE** ■ from page 4

where their vision is embraced and their impact is appreciated.

At what point do we say enough is enough and stop letting the lethal minority ruin the work of the healthy majority? When do we stop empowering people to stand in the way of what's right? When do we take away their power by removing them from positions of influence?

As a Christian, my faith tells me that people can believe whatever they want. What we don't have is a right to allow our beliefs to bring others down. None of us has the right to hurt and destroy others' hopes and dreams. Success should never be predicated on the demise of others.

Answer the call to cause: Take inven-

tory of our capabilities in this community and ask yourself if you are on the right side. Pick people over pride and stop allowing the phenomenal actions of many to be overshadowed by a few loud, awful people. Stand behind what's right and drive away the deterrents. After all, the good is the majority, right?

Ask yourself and others, "how did we get HERE, and how do we get THERE?"

*Kirk Ray Smith is the president and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Springfield, which operates a branch at 63 Springfield St., Agawam. To view Smith's past articles, visit [www.springfieldy.org/category/news/president-ceo-editorials](http://www.springfieldy.org/category/news/president-ceo-editorials).*

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It's been 14 years since Agawam officially joined the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade, as reported in the March 15, 2001, Agawam Advertiser News. FILE PHOTO

## COLLEEN ■ from page 1

money and find sponsors to build a float for the 2001 St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Magovern and other city councilors were able to march in the parade along with a contingent of Agawam dignitaries.

"It was a great way for Agawam to promote the Irish heritage and culture," said Magovern.

Barbara Foley, the current president of the Agawam St. Patrick's Day Committee, has been compiling a history of the first 14 Colleen contests and St. Patrick's Day parade.

She says the event has come a long way in the past 15 years, and it has grown from a Colleen coronation and St. Patrick's float into a year-long celebration of the Irish culture and heritage.

"We have a lot of different community events and community service projects throughout the year with our committee and our Colleens and their courts," said Foley. "We have really accomplished what our bylaws require."

Among the bylaws are promoting the Irish culture and St. Patrick in the community through events like the Colleen coronation, the corned beef and cabbage dinner, and the preparation of the St. Patrick's Day float. The group also seeks to raise money to be used toward scholarships for the Colleen.

Over the past 14 years, awards for St. Patrick's Day Committee members have also been a part of the event. The committee nominates a parade marshal each year, and names a female awardee for the Anne Sullivan Award. Foley was the 2014 recipient. The citizenship award is given to an outstanding community servant who is not a part of the St. Patrick's Committee.

The final award and scholarship, which has been given for about five years, is the Bill Pfau Award. It is given to one of the Colleen contestants who wins an essay contest written about a person of Irish descent that has meant a lot to them. Pfau was a longtime contributor to the St. Patrick's Day Commit-

tee and his family started the award in his honor after he passed away.

All four honors will be given out at the 2015 Colleen Coronation, which is scheduled to be held Sunday morning, Feb. 8.

Foley is looking to make the 15th Colleen Coronation their biggest event and seeks its past to make it special.

"Normally, we have had different people in the community hold banners and walk in the parade in front of the parade marshal and the Colleen float," said Foley. "This year, we are hoping that group consists of past parade marshals and past Colleens and the court. We would like for them to be part of the parade to celebrate the 15th anniversary of our participation in the St. Patrick's Day parade."

Foley wants those previous participants to get in touch with the St. Patrick's Day Committee to take part in this year's event. Mayor Richard Cohen speaks at the coronation and takes part in the parade annually. It is an event that he looks forward to.

"It's one of those days where we celebrate Irish heritage and for that day, everyone is Irish," said Cohen.

The other major part of the St. Patrick's Day celebration is the building of Agawam's float. For the past 15 years, Foley says Six Flags New England has made it possible for Agawam to have a secure location to store and work on the float. "They have let us use their warehouse every year so we have plenty of space to build our float," said Magovern. "It has been a really big help. We have had a lot of businesses in the community support the coronation and the float for all these years." Magovern is still on the committee, but others have stepped up to take a more active role. He is proud the event has reached the 15th year.

"It's amazing that something that started with a few people at a Friendly's has become such a great tradition," said Magovern. "I'm really happy to be part of it every year."

## Colleen coronation, awards program Sunday

The Colleen coronation and awards ceremony will be held Sunday, Feb. 8, at Chez Josef, 176 Shoemaker Lane, Agawam. Nine Colleen hopefuls from Agawam will vie for the honor of representing their town as the Colleen or one of four court members in the Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade. The contestants include seven seniors at Agawam High School, Brittany Busco, 17; Erin Curran, 19; Jacqueline Donahue, 17; Marisa Ewing, 17; Emma Foley, 17; Alissa O'Connell, 17; and Allison Schwartz, 17; and two seniors at Holyoke Catholic High School, Michaela Calabrese, 17, and Lauren Muszynski, 17.

The program starts with a coffee hour at 9:30 a.m.

The St. Patrick's Committee will also present the Anne Sullivan Award and the Citizenship Award during this combined event. The Anne Sullivan Award is presented to a committee member who epitomizes the values represented by Anne Sullivan. This year's awardee is Mary Jo Safford. The Citizenship Award is given to a non-committee member who has made substantial contributions to the community. The recipient for this year is Marilyn Curry.

Tickets may be purchased for \$35 through Laurie O'Connell at Laurie822@comcast.net or 413-519-1071.



Agawam Colleen contestants are, from left, Emma Foley, Jacqueline Donahue, Erin Curran, Michaela Calabrese, Alissa O'Connell, Brittany Busco, Allison Schwartz and Lauren Muszynski. Not pictured is Marisa Ewing. SUBMITTED PHOTO

## CHARTER ■ from page 1

"I have an extensive interview process and I make sure that new department heads are people that highly skilled, well-educated, have served on state boards or committees, and have a high competency," said Cohen. Cohen believes that process could be damaged if the council gets the opportunity to shoot down his appointments.

"I am concerned it would open department head appointments up for political banter," said Cohen. "It would make for political influence as opposed to having highly-qualified individuals getting hired."

During his tenure, Cohen has made hires for the assessor position as well as inspection services. He has also made the decisions of hiring from within, with Police Chief Eric Gillis, Fire Chief Alan Sirois, and Department of Public Works Superintendent Christopher Golba.

He is currently in the process of interviewing for and making the appointment of a new town planner. Current Planning and Community Development Director Deborah Dachos is set to retire at the end of next week.

"My office has had no issues making department head appointments," said Cohen, who utilizes a paper search committee within his administration to screen the first round of candidates and recommend finalists for him to interview.

Cohen says he has spoken to some city councilors about the situation and hopes it will be voted down.

The resolution will likely be sent to the Legislative Subcommittee for a recommendation. Monday's regular meeting of the Agawam City Council was cancelled due to a snowstorm.

## Tax Preparation by Full Time Professionals

It's that time again for individuals to address the issue of filing their annual income tax returns, a task often met with concern and anxiety as to correctness and cost.

Once again, some prospective preparers are advertising gimmicks and innuendo regarding the merits of their firm. One even advertises that they will issue a \$50 credit card for using their service. Another advertises that it's going to be easier this year for those who married in 2014. Should one believe this when this change often results in the combining of incomes and deductions in areas that are totally foreign to that of the past?

In addition 2014 introduces the new issue of the Affordable Care Act, referred to as Obamacare, and an entirely new set of complexities that can increase, or decrease, one's tax in ways that never previously existed or are understood.

One should question if this is the year to use a preparer who is available for only a few months on a part-time basis or to take on the task of preparing their own return? Alternatively, we have substantial tax training and experience in preparation over many years and are available year-around to aid clients. We even offer to review your prior year's returns at no added cost to assure their correctness and, if needed, prepare any beneficial amendment(s) to obtain appropriate refund(s) at a nominal preparation cost.

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# Public Safety

## FIRE LOG

The Agawam Fire Department responded to 69 EMS calls and the following emergency response calls for the week from Jan. 20 to Jan. 26.

On Jan. 20 at 3:21 p.m., the department responded to South Westfield Street for lockout.

On Jan. 20 at 7:12 p.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for motor vehicle accident with no injuries.

On Jan. 21 at 2:08 a.m., the department responded to Mark Drive for CO detector activation due to malfunction.

On Jan. 21 at 7:11 a.m., the department responded to Edward Street for lockout.

On Jan. 21 at 10:21 a.m., the department responded to Cardinal Drive for public service.

On Jan. 21 at 2:46 p.m., the department responded to Suffield Street for public service.

On Jan. 21 at 7:26 p.m., the department responded to Garden Street for alarm system activation, no fire – unintentional.

On Jan. 22 at 2:34 p.m., the department responded to Fordham Avenue for alarm system activation, no fire – unintentional.

On Jan. 22 at 7:42 p.m., the department responded to Suffield Street for lockout.

On Jan. 23 at 5:59 a.m., the department responded to Springfield Street, was dispatched and canceled en route.

On Jan. 23 at 2:52 p.m., the department responded to Cooper Street for lockout.

On Jan. 23 at 3:46 p.m., the department responded to Meadowbrook Manor for lockout.

On Jan. 23 at 5:49 p.m., the department responded to Cooper Street for citizen complaint.

On Jan. 23 at 6:33 p.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for good intent call, other.

On Jan. 25 at 7:56 p.m., the department responded to High Meadow Road for chimney or flue fire, confined to chimney of flue.

On Jan. 26 at 8:13 a.m., the department responded to Sheri Lane, wrong location.

On Jan. 26 at 8:25 a.m., the department responded to Shelley Lane for person in distress, other.

On Jan. 26 at 11:51 a.m., the department responded to Lealand Avenue for service call, other.

On Jan. 26 at 3:22 p.m., the department responded to North Westfield Street for lockout.

## POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 271 calls for service from Jan. 27 to Feb. 2. The department made four arrests. Those arrested will appear at a future date in Westfield District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

### Tuesday, Jan. 27

Benjamin E. Stulpin II, 44, of 1025 Suffield St., 3rd Floor Apt., Agawam, was arrested on a default warrant for failure to appear.

### Sunday, Feb. 1

Cynthia Ellen Fabian, 54, of 23 Granville Road, Southwick, was arrested on charges of operating under the influence of liquor and negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

Stone Maldonado, 20, of 262 Regency Park Drive, Agawam, was arrested on a charge of a person under 21 in possession of liquor.

Elizabeth Emmett, 37, of 128 North Westfield St., 2nd Floor Apt., Feeding Hills, was arrested on a charge of domestic assault and battery.

# Emergency hotline available in town

Mayor Richard Cohen and the Agawam Emergency Management office advise residents that a telephone hotline has been established for town and weather emergencies. The number is 413-726-9750.

The Agawam Emergency Management Office will air messages on this designated number to advise residents of emergency

conditions, shelter information and other emergencies that may exist. No messages can be left on this line, although it can be accessed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Information can also be found on the town's web page at [www.agawam.ma.us/eco](http://www.agawam.ma.us/eco), [facebook.com/agawamem](https://facebook.com/agawamem) and [@agawamem](https://twitter.com/agawamem).

# Homeless cats available for adoption

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Homeless Cat Project, a no-kill cat rescue, will hold adoptions Thursdays from 5 to 7 p.m., Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sundays 1 to 3 p.m. during February at 1124 E. Mountain Road, Westfield.

Adult cats are free to qualified homes that make a monetary donation in the amount of their choice to WHCP. Adult cats are neutered or spayed, up-to-date on vaccinations, defleaded, dewormed, tested for FIV/FELV, come with a free vet visit to Blandford Animal Hospital and a bag of cat food.

For more information, email [Westfieldhctp@aol.com](mailto:Westfieldhctp@aol.com).

# ‘Winter Warm Up’ is Feb. 18

The Rotary Club of Agawam will host a “Winter Warm Up” 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18, at Storrowton Carriage House on the Eastern State Exposition grounds, West Springfield.

This “fun and fellowship” event includes beer, wine, spirits and hors d’oeuvres compliments of Williams Distributing, Martini and Tsars Vodka. It will feature raffle prizes, a 50-50 raffle, silent auction and musical entertainment by Richie Mitnick.

Tickets are \$25 in advance, available at Easthampton Savings Bank on Main Street in Agawam and at Storrowton Tavern, or \$30 at the door. Proceeds benefit local charities.

For ticket information, contact Bob Magovern at [neighbor12@aol.com](mailto:neighbor12@aol.com).

# Seniors

## Agawam Senior Center

MONDAY, FEB. 9: 8 A.M., WEIGHT TRAINING; 8:15 A.M., YOGA; 9 A.M., PAINTING CLUB; 9:30 A.M., LINE DANCING; 11:30 A.M., GENTLE YOGA; 1 P.M., BINGO; 5:30 P.M., ZUMBA GOLD.

TUESDAY, FEB. 10: S.H.I.N.E. REPRESENTATIVE (BY APPT. ONLY); 9 A.M., EXERCISE, KNITTING CLASS, SEWING CLASS; 10 A.M., CHAIR EXERCISE; 12:30 P.M., LADIES BILLIARDS, MAH JONGG, MOVIE (“SEND ME NO FLOWERS”); 1 P.M., MEXICAN TRAIN GAME; 2:30 P.M., CHORUS; 4:30 P.M., YOGA; 6 P.M., BEGINNER LINE DANCE; 6:30 P.M., EVENING SEWING CLASS.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 11: 8 A.M., WEIGHT TRAINING; 8:15 A.M., YOGA; 9:45 A.M., GENTLE YOGA; 12:30 P.M., BRIDGE; 1 P.M., BALLROOM LESSONS BEGIN, SCRABBLE; 1:30 P.M., GOLDEN AGERS CHAPTER 1 MEETING; 5 P.M., FRIENDS VALENTINE DINNER DANCE (\$15); 5:30 P.M., ZUMBA GOLD.

THURSDAY, FEB. 12: FREE TAX PREP (BY APPOINTMENT ONLY); 8:30 A.M., CHAIR EXERCISE; 9 A.M., EXERCISE; 9:30 A.M., QUILTING; 10 A.M., LINE DANCING; 12:30 P.M., BRIDGE; 1 P.M., PITCH, OPEN ART CLASS; 2 P.M., MELODY BAND PRACTICE; 6:30 P.M., PITCH, EVENING

LINE DANCING.

FRIDAY, FEB. 13: 8 A.M., YOGA; 9:15 A.M., ALL MEDIA ART; 9:30 A.M., TAI CHI; 11:30 A.M., VALENTINE LUNCHEON (\$6); NOON, CANASTA; 1 P.M., PITCH, CRIBBAGE; 5:30 P.M., ZUMBA GOLD.

## Agawam Senior Center lunch menu

MONDAY, FEB. 9: HAM DINNER, ROASTED SWEET POTATOES, PEAS, ORANGES.

TUESDAY, FEB. 10: SWISS BURGER, MACARONI SALAD, LETTUCE AND TOMATO, DICED PEARS.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 11: RAVIOLI WITH MEAT RAGU, SPRING SALAD, PUDDING.

THURSDAY, FEB. 12: CHICKEN STIR FRY, STIR FRY VEGETABLES, BROWN RICE, APRICOTS.

FRIDAY, FEB. 13: CIDER-GLAZED PORK LOIN, SAUSAGE CRANBERRY STUFFING, MASHED POTATO, BAKED STUFFED TOMATO, CHOCOLATE PEANUT BUTTER, CUPCAKES (\$6).

# Notes from the Music Room

By Darcy Davis

After some really busy years recently with many commitments to a number of organizations, some health problems made it necessary to “step down a bit” and I have had time to peruse many of the things that have happened over the years.

I hope they are interesting enough to be “dug up” for a few articles as well as men-

tioning things that are currently happening in the music activities at the Agawam Senior Center. I have spent the last 25 years as a volunteer there with the Melody Band, the Memory Lane Chorus and the Music Room located off the back corner of the stage.

These things have been extremely enjoyable and have also brought many new friends, but I am also ready to share some good memories.

# Senior Fair at Heritage Woods

Heritage Woods Senior Living will hold a Senior Fair on Thursday, Feb. 26, from 9 a.m. to noon at 462 Main St., Agawam. Admission is free. Visitors can participate in free blood pressure, hearing and balance screenings. There will also be free chair massages and free food samples from the Ninety Nine Restaurant.

For more information, call 413-789-8332 or email [nicole.wallace@genesishcc.com](mailto:nicole.wallace@genesishcc.com).

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# In the Classroom

## SCHOOL AGENDA

### Regular School Committee Meeting

<b>Roberta G. Doering School</b> <b>68 Main St.</b> <b>Tuesday, Feb. 10 - 7 p.m.</b>	representative update 9. Unfinished business: None 10. Business meeting a. Routine Matters 1) Approval of Minutes 2) Calendar/Correspondence b. Warrants/Transfers c. Reports: 1). Scheduled reports: • Personnel Update (paper report) • Financial Update – R. Clickstein • Instructional Technology Up-	date – M. Feeley 2). Subcommittee Updates 11. New Business: a. SCR-15-02, Adoption of the 2015 – 2016 School Calendar b. SCR-15-03, Approval to name the new AHS athletic and track facility after Louis Conte c. SCR-15-04, Approval of 2015-2016 AHS Program of Studies 12. Any other items that may legally come before the committee 13. Adjournment
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### Agawam High School Counseling bulletin

**College Acceptances:** Elijah Bard: Bridgton Academy; Chris Basile: University of Vermont, University of Maine; Alyssa Eggleston: University of New Hampshire; Michael Goyette: Westfield State University; Tara Graham: Drexel University;m Sarah Graves: Worcester State University; Nick Hanchett: University of Rhode Island; Irina Mita: Bay Path University; Paul Hotaling: Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; Christopher LaZazzera: Emmanuel College, Quinnipiac University, Western New England University, Ithaca College; Chloe Leclerc: Worcester State University; Kristina Lemire: Worcester State University; Brady Lucia: Western New England University; Taylor Marcotte: UMass Boston, Post University; Greg McLaughlin: University of Maine Orono; Kayla Moquin: UMass Amherst, University of Pennsylvania; Emily Murphy: Worcester State University; Roshni Patel: Nichols College, Quinnipiac University; Mike Reed: Castleton State College; Courtney Sherman: University of Maine; Becca Uschmann: Bridgewater State College; Alex Haupt: Elms College, Westfield State University.

**Seniors:** Please let Mrs. Tirone in the counseling office know what college/university you have been accepted into.

**Social Work at Western New England Univer-**

**sity:** WNEU and the Department of Social Work will hold an open house and informational luncheon for juniors and seniors to learn more about the program on Feb. 21 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Students must register for this by Feb. 14 at [www.wne.edu/openhouse](http://www.wne.edu/openhouse).

**Free Financial Aid Application Assistance for Mass. Residents:** American Student Assistance College Planning Centers offer free assistance with completing financial aid application at centers and over the phone by calling 877-332-4348. Visit [www.asa.org/plan](http://www.asa.org/plan) for more information.

**CTEC (Lower Pioneer Valley Career and Technical Education Center):** Students and parents are invited to attend an Open House on Feb. 10 from 5 to 7 p.m. Visit [www.lpvctec.org](http://www.lpvctec.org) for a listing of programs available.

**FAFSA Day (College Goal Sunday):** A volunteer driven program providing free assistance to students and families seeking to complete the FAFSA, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid on Feb. 22 at 1 p.m. at Holyoke Community College. For more information, visit [www.fafsaday.org](http://www.fafsaday.org).

**Scholarships:** See your counselor for more information or an application.

### WSU marks Black History Month

WESTFIELD — Westfield State University is celebrating Black History Month by hosting a month-long celebration of events ranging from poetry performances, panel discussions, and interactive experiences.

Since 1974, Westfield State has held special events during the month of February dedicated to informing students, faculty, and staff as well as the community about the importance of black history, culture and traditions. Black History Month is organized by a committee of faculty and staff.

For the first time, Black History Month celebrations are themed this year. The theme is “In Living Color,” a play on the ’90s sketch comedy television show of the same name, which utilized comedy, fashion, satire and other media to captivate audiences. Black History Month Committee Chair Ashiah Richeme, staff assistant in residential life, said it was important for her to organize a variety of events including some contemporary discussions.

“I hope to bring awareness and a different perspective,” Richeme said. “Black History Month is not just about Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks, and Ferguson. It’s more than just African American history, as well. My hope is for attendees to see beyond the typical themes of the month and learn while enjoying themselves. Each program has its own definition, unique style, and is educational.”

Director of Diversity, Inclusion, and Student Activities Jessika Murphy said the plethora of events allow students to understand the time table of racial injustice.

“We want to bridge the gap, to show where we as a country started, notice the positive changes we’ve made, and to look forward to ways will still need to grow,” Murphy said.

While the university has held events around Black History Month for 40 years, it recently began expanding cultural awareness programs, including its first recognition of Latino Heritage Month last fall.

“Part of our job as educators is to provide students with the opportunity to learn beyond their comfort zone, which includes learning about different cultures,” Murphy said.

**Events**

All of the below events take place at the Westfield State University campus, 577 Western Ave., Westfield, unless otherwise noted.

Throughout the month: The Arno Maris Art Gallery will feature the exhibit “Ocular Amblyopia,” works by Andrae Green. An artist’s reception will be held Thursday, Feb. 5, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., with a snow date of Feb. 12.

Thursday, Feb. 5, 5:30 p.m.: A screen-

ing of “Dear White People,” which follows a group of African American students as they navigate campus life and racial politics. Film screening and discussion will be held in the Owl’s Nest.

Tuesday, Feb. 10, 6:30 p.m.: “Dispelling the Myths of Black Greek Letter Organizations,” a dynamic conversation on the current state of Black Greek Letter Organizations, will be held in the Owl’s Nest.

Wednesday, Feb. 11, 7 p.m.: “Voices Beyond Bondage,” a poetry reading of 150 poems culled from burgeoning black-owned newspapers of the era, will be held in Scanlon Banquet Hall.

Monday, Feb. 16, 6:30 p.m.: “Black Girls Rock” is a night of celebration to acknowledge women of color who have emboldened Westfield State’s campus. The celebration will be in the University Hall Lobby.

Wednesday, Feb. 18, 7 p.m.: “Soul Café,” a night of expression of art for students, faculty and staff, including jazz ensembles, poetry, dance, step and song, will be held in the Owl’s Nest.

Sunday, Feb. 22, 3 p.m.: In a “Tribute to W.E.B. DuBois,” Westfield State’s Chorus, Gospel Choir and So Seductive Step Team collaborate with UMass-Amherst Libraries, St. John’s Congregatioanl Church, the W.E.B. DuBois Center at UMass-Amherst, Springfield public schools, Springfield Technical Community College and Beta Sigma Boule to honor the civil rights activist at St. John’s Church, 45 Hancock St., Springfield.

Monday, Feb. 23, all day: “Black Solidarity Day” is a day of solidarity, recognition, and unity. Participants are encouraged to wear black to symbolize unity, progression, and an end to racial oppression.

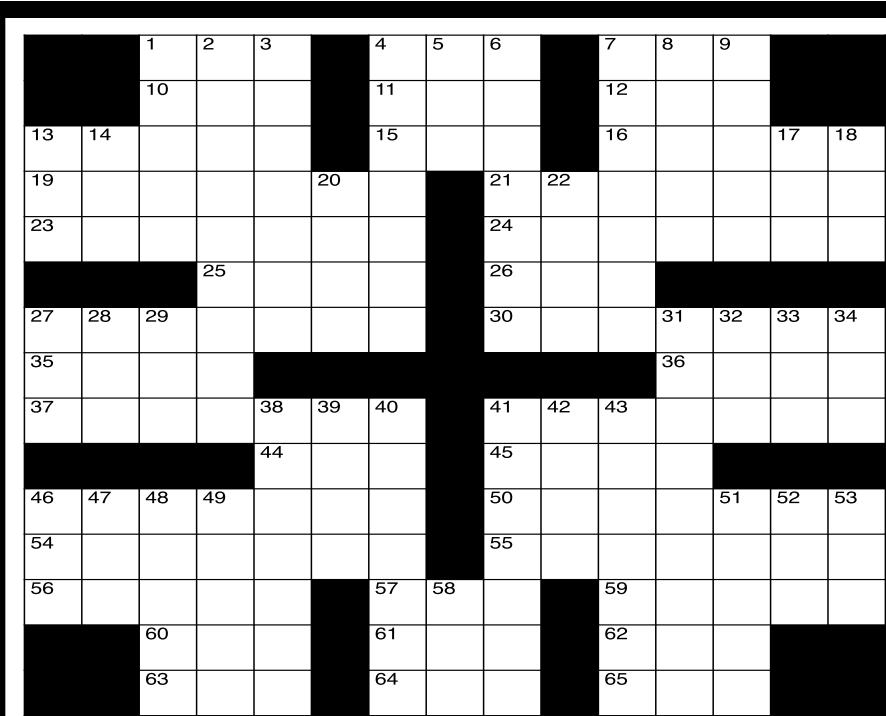
Tuesday, Feb. 24, 7 p.m.: “It’s Weave not WEAVED,” an open dialogue on black beauty and the negative effects of image-based media, will be held in the University Hall Lobby.

Tuesday, Feb. 24, 7-9 p.m.: “Tunnel of Oppression,” an interactive experience that targets issues of privilege, power and social justice, will be held in Scanlon Banquet Hall.

Wednesday, Feb. 25, 8-10 p.m.: “Tunnel of Oppression” will continue in Scanlon Banquet Hall.

Wednesday, Feb. 26, 7-9 p.m.: “Tunnel of Oppression” will conclude in Scanlon Banquet Hall.

All of the above events are free and open to the public. For more information about Black History Month events, please visit [www.westfield.ma.edu/bhm](http://www.westfield.ma.edu/bhm). For more information on Westfield State University, visit [www.westfield.ma.edu](http://www.westfield.ma.edu), follow [www.twitter.com/westfieldstate](http://www.twitter.com/westfieldstate), like “WestfieldStateUniversity” on Facebook.com.



<b>CLUES ACROSS</b> 1. Licenses TV stations 4. Worn-out horse 7. Expire 10. Winglike structure 11. Supplement with difficulty 12. Confederate soldier 13. Attempter 15. All persons of the earth 16. Vertical position 19. Live longer than 21. Showing keen interest 23. Old Spanish currency units 24. Ingested by sniffing 25. A narrow path or road 26. Old Tokyo 27. Bound map collections 30. Deliquium	35. Brownish coat mixed with white 36. 3 banded S. Am. armadillo 37. Coat a metal with an oxide 41. Slave-like 44. 1950's TV Wally 45. City founded by Xenophanes 46. Hermaphroditic 50. Kale plant with smooth leaves 54. Forelimb 55. Unassisted 56. Jeweled headdress 57. Auricle 59. Competing groups 60. Cardinal number 61. Light bulb inventor's initials 62. Heat unit 63. Doctor of Education 64. Make a mistake 65. Point midway between S and SE	<b>CLUES DOWN</b> 1. Bazaars 2. Cuyahoga River city 3. Latin word for charity 4. Scourges 5. Alias 6. Origins 7. Subjugate using troops 8. Dutch name of Ypres 9. Siskel and __, critics 13. Teaspoon (abbr.) 14. Herb of grace 17. Brew 18. Kilo yard (abbr.) 20. Barn's wind 22. Indicator 27. Macaws 28. 2000 pounds 29. Official language of Laos	31. Cleveland's roundball team 32. Office of Public Information 33. Chum 34. Before 38. Nation in the north Atlantic 39. Apportion into sections 40. Skilled in analysis 41. More assured 42. __ Musk, businessman 43. In a way, tells 46. Immature newt 47. Hawaiian taro root dish 48. Extremely angry 49. Wrapped up in a cerecloth 51. Expression 52. Paradoxical sleep 53. Tooth caregiver 58. Swiss river
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Answers on page 14

### School Lunch

#### AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL

The Agawam High School lunch menu is posted on the school's website.

#### AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Monday, Feb. 9: Baked mozzarella sticks with marinara sauce, oven baked fries, vegetable, fresh and chilled fruit.

Tuesday, Feb. 10: Turkey tacos, assorted toppings, seasoned corn, lettuce and tomatoes, fresh and chilled fruit, mini corn muffin.

Wednesday, Feb. 11: Chicken parmesan over baked ziti, broccoli, fresh and chilled fruit.

Thursday, Feb. 12: Ultra-grain stuffed crust cheese pizza, salad with lite dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

Friday, Feb. 13: Cheeseburger grinder, lettuce and tomato, potato wedges, fresh and chilled fruit.

**ROBERTA G. DOERING SCHOOL**

Monday, Feb. 9: Baked mozzarella sticks with marinara sauce, oven baked fries, vegetable, fresh and chilled fruit.

Tuesday, Feb. 10: Turkey tacos, assorted toppings, seasoned corn, lettuce and tomatoes, fresh and chilled fruit, mini corn muffin.

Wednesday, Feb. 11: Chicken parmesan over baked ziti, broccoli, fresh and chilled fruit.

Thursday, Feb. 12: Ultra-grain stuffed crust cheese pizza, salad with lite dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

Friday, Feb. 13: Cheeseburger grinder, lettuce and tomato, potato wedges, fresh and chilled fruit.

#### AGAWAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Monday, Feb. 9: Baked mozzarella sticks with marinara sauce, oven baked fries, vegetable, fresh and chilled fruit.

Tuesday, Feb. 10: Turkey tacos, assorted toppings, seasoned corn, lettuce and tomatoes, fresh and chilled fruit, mini corn muffin.

Wednesday, Feb. 11: Chicken parmesan over baked ziti, broccoli, fresh and chilled fruit.

Thursday, Feb. 12: Ultra-grain stuffed crust cheese pizza, salad with lite dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

Friday, Feb. 13: Cheeseburger grinder, lettuce and tomato, potato wedges, fresh and chilled fruit.

#### JAMES CLARK SCHOOL BREAKFAST MENU

Monday, Feb. 9: Assorted low-sugar cereal, 1 percent low-fat milk, cinnamon graham crackers, mozzarella cheese string, chilled juice.

Tuesday, Feb. 10: Assorted low-sugar cereal, 1 percent low-fat milk, assorted Nutri-Grain bars, mozzarella cheese string, chilled juice.

Wednesday, Feb. 11: Assorted low-sugar cereal, 1 percent low-fat milk, assorted muffins, mozzarella cheese string, chilled juice.

Thursday, Feb. 12: Assorted low-sugar cereal, 1 percent low-fat milk, assorted Trix yogurt, mozzarella cheese string, chilled juice.

Friday, Feb. 13: Mini pancakes with syrup for dipping, mozzarella cheese string, 1 percent low-fat milk, chilled juice.



# Agawam Robotics teams come home winners

On Saturday, Jan. 24, both of Agawam's seventh through 10th grade FIRST Tech Challenge teams, FTC Team 90 (OMG) and FTC Team 839 (MIGHTY Mechanics), headed out to Arlington for a qualifying tournament. Braving the winter storm that morning, the teams gathered with 10 other teams at Arlington High School. This event was a culminating event of almost five months of hard work.

The teams researched various robot ideas, gained college-level experience with training in computer aided design and programming, built and rebuilt prototypes, manufactured parts using a drill press, band saw, belt/disk sander, chop saw, and various power and hand tools, assembled and re-assembled various configurations of designs, wired all the electronics and designed and installed all the necessary programs. At that point, all members of both teams were truly winners with the knowledge and experiences that they had gained.

This year's challenge required the teams to collect and score practice plastic baseballs and golf balls into vertical clear plastic goals. Points are also scored by getting the robots and goals into certain areas of the playing field. Due to the storm and further snow predicted to be still on its way, the tournament was cut short to only five matches instead of the usual seven.

The matches were tough and the Agawam teams fought hard and smart. The MIGHTY Mechanics ended up in eighth place by making steady progress through their matches; OMG ended up in second place with very consistent performance. After the qualifying matches, the teams were ranked in order for the finals. Alliances were picked by sequential pairings of four teams. OMG was picked by the first place team to be their partner. Alliances two and three were picked similarly. In a nail-biting moment, MIGHTY Mechanics naturally assumed that they would be picked by the seventh-place team; however, they were passed over for another team. Then, MIGHTY Mechanics immediately assembled into the stands to cheer on their brother team through the finals.



Agawam's FTC Team 90 and FTC Team 839 competed in Arlington recently and both returned home as award winners. SUBMITTED PHOTO

In the end, OMG competed well in the finals to win the Finalist Alliance (second place) Award. They represented Agawam well. The MIGHTY Mechanics did not go home without their own recognition; they won the Rockwell Collins Innovate Award for "bringing great ideas from concept to reality."

OMG coaches Edwin and Wincy Chan and MIGHTY Mechanics coaches Jay and Charlene Cameron, and all the parents were all proud of both teams.

OMG, as a rookie team, still has one more chance to proceed to the Massachusetts State Championships on Feb. 28. They will be competing again at Milton High School on Feb. 8.

Both teams will be participating in a variety of post-season fun and educational sessions once the season is over. Most likely this will include manufacturing and programming challenges.

Both teams are supported by Agawam Robotics Education Association and Parametric Technology Corporation. OMG is also sponsored by Pelican Case, OMG, Mitchell Auto Group, Thermal Dynamix, Down Under Irrigation, CDA Roofing, MTG Inc., Westfield Bank, Stellato Brothers Landscaping, Allied Flooring and Paint, Tower Electric, Sign Techniques Inc., Schlaffer Chiropractic Office, Admiral Masonry and AJK Landscaping. MIGHTY Mechanics is also sponsored by Hartford Steam Boiler, MTI Systems and Specialty Bolt and Screw. Any sixth or seventh grade student that is interested in participating in this program, which includes learning about science, technology and engineering and other career options, and provides fun with robots and friends, can contact [ftccoach@agawamrobotics.org](mailto:ftccoach@agawamrobotics.org). More information can be found at [usfirst.org](http://usfirst.org), [ftc90.agawamrobotics.org](http://ftc90.agawamrobotics.org) and [ftc839.agawamrobotics.org](http://ftc839.agawamrobotics.org).

## Sign up now for preschool screening

Agawam Public Schools is now scheduling preschool screenings, to be conducted in March. Preschool screening is a process of assessing a child's general development. It is not a "test" in the sense that a child passes or fails; it provides information about children's strengths and helps detect areas of weakness. Professionals observe the child doing various tasks and then are guided in assessing the child's ability by standardized performance scales.

To request a screening for a 3- or 4-year-old, contact the Agawam Early Childhood Center at 413-821-0597 to schedule an appointment for March. The center conducts screenings throughout the year, so parents of children who are not quite three years old should wait to contact the center later during the school year. These screenings are for preschool only — not kindergarten.

## CAMPUS NOTES...

**Bentley University:** Taylor Lunden, Natasha Sankalia and Jordan Venne, of Agawam; and Alexis Mirski, of Feeding Hills, were named to the fall semester honors list.

**Clarkson University:** James R. Watkins, of Feeding Hills, was named a presidential scholar for the fall semester.

**Colby-Sawyer College:** Lauren Blanchard, of Agawam, was named to the fall semester dean's list.

**Elms College:** Erika Cuzzzone, Sarah Cuzzzone, Alyssa Febo, Carly Fellion, Lyudmila Kaptyug, Michelle Lopez, Brandon Montalvo, Diana Paskal, Jessica Perusse, Inna Radionova, Alina Radionova, Conor Rieker, Erin Saunders and Erica Van Ness, of Agawam; and Brian Benson, Jessica Colson, Heather Ghidoni, Rick Giordano, Laura Gomes, Joseph Grimaldi and Anthony Nitri, of Feeding Hills, were named to the fall semester dean's list.

**Endicott College:** Alexis K. Page and Danielle L. Stratton, of Agawam; and Kara E. Franqueza, of Feeding Hills, were named to the fall semester dean's list.

**Fitzburg State University:** Timothy J. Michalak, of Feeding Hills, was named to the fall semester president's list.

Ashley M. Jediny, of Feeding Hills, was named to the fall semester dean's list.

**Roger Williams University:** David Balise and Joshua Jacques, of Feeding Hills, were named to the fall semester dean's list.

**University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth:** Matthew Montano, of Feeding Hills, was named to the fall semester chancellor's list. Brittney Allivato and Caitlyn Pisarski, of Agawam; and Morgan Casey, Caroline Daubitz and Sarah Stephens, of Feeding Hills, were named to the fall semester dean's list.

**University of New Hampshire:** Ryan Evelyn and Meaghan Foley, of Feeding Hills, were named to the fall semester dean's list.

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WILL YOUR TEEN CAUSE A TEXTIDENT?

textident [tek-sti-dent] *n.* A collision caused by someone who's too busy with their phone to drive safely.

The Arbella Insurance Group Charitable Foundation, Inc. has created a mobile training tour called Distractology 101, which includes a simulator designed to show teens how dangerous distracted driving really is. We're proud to announce that the simulator is coming to your town. It's free. It's memorable. And it could save your teen's life.

**DISTRACTOLOGY 101 DETAILS**

**Who:** New Drivers (learner's permit or license for less than 3 years)

**Where:** Insurance Center of New England, 1070 Suffield St., Agawam, MA

**When:** Monday, February 16th - Friday, February 20th

**Time:** 45 minute appointments available between 9am - 5pm

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## Happy Valentine's Day!

*In addition to:*  
Italian Cookies, Biscotti, and Sugar Cookies.

### Special Valentine's Menu

- ♥ Red Velvet Cupcakes
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- ♥ Strawberries Dipped in Chocolate
- ♥ Strawberries Stuffed w/Cheesecake Dipped in Chocolate
- ♥ Heart Shaped Chocolate Chip Cookies
- ♥ Mousse Cups
- ♥ Chocolate & Red Velvet Whoopie Pies
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[www.ninascookies.com](http://www.ninascookies.com)

Tues.-Wed.-Fri. 9am-5:30pm, Thurs. 9am-6pm, Sat. 9am-2:30pm



## Electric company taking a new name

Western Massachusetts Electric Co., the electric utility in Agawam, is adopting a new name this week, part of a consolidation of brands by its owner, formerly known as Northeast Utilities.

The company's name changed to Eversource Energy starting Feb. 2, the company announced. All of Northeast Utilities' subsidiaries — WMECO, Connecticut Light and Power Co., NSTAR Electric, NSTAR Gas, Public Service Company of New Hampshire and Yankee Gas Services Co. — will now use one name. Northeast Utilities is based in Hartford and Boston.

WMECO has more than 200,000 electric customers across Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire counties. Other divisions of Eversource serve electric customers across Connecticut, Eastern Massachusetts, and several regions of New Hampshire; and natural gas customers in Connecticut and central and eastern Massachusetts.

"Energy is what brings us all together, and Eversource reflects the one-company focus we have been driving for the last few years," said Tom May, chairman, president and chief executive officer of Eversource. "Consolidating our brand was the obvious next step for us as we continually strive to improve energy delivery and customer service to our 3.6 million electricity and natural gas customers across the region."

CL&P and WMECO merged to form Northeast Utilities in 1966, though they continued operating under their previous names. The company acquired PSNH in 1992, Yankee Gas in 2000 and NSTAR in 2012.

Customers will receive more information regarding the brand change this month. As part of the switch, the company's New York Stock Exchange ticker symbol is expected to change from NU to ES effective Feb. 19.

## ACAA to meet Feb. 11

The Agawam Community Artists and Artisans will meet at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11, in the community room of the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. The featured guest will be Carol Ostberg, who will demonstrate painting on wood and furniture. She will demonstrate painting techniques using acrylics on a variety of surfaces as well as describe her design process and color theory.

Guests are welcome.

## Safford named Anne Sullivan Award winner

The Agawam St. Patrick's Committee has announced that MaryJo Safford is this year's Anne Sullivan Award winner. Safford has been a member of the Agawam St. Patrick's Committee for four years, and for the past three years has worked on fundraising and establishing new traditions.

She is a graduate of Baystate Medical Center School of Nursing, where she received her RN diploma. She received a bachelor of science in nursing degree from Our Lady of the Elms College and a master of science degree in nursing at St. Joseph College.

In addition, she has completed course work at the Centers for Disease Control and is certified as a family health nurse practitioner.

Safford has been employed at Baystate Health System for 39 years and has been in charge of the travel medicine program there for 23 years. She has also served on the Agawam Board of Health for the past three years and has been a member of the Dan Kane Singers for 16 years.

Safford and her husband, Howard, residents of Feeding Hills for 21 years, also have a summer cottage at Cape Cod. Her favorite pastime there is clamming and cooking for their many guests. At any opportunity, she enjoys hosting gatherings at her home, including St. Patrick's Colleen Committee meetings and Colleen functions.

*Editor's note: Because of an editing error, the wrong photo was printed alongside this item in the Jan. 15 Agawam Advertiser News.*



**MaryJoe Safford, center, the Agawam St. Patrick's Committee Anne Sullivan Award winner, is pictured with Barbara Foley, left, committee president, and Kerri O'Connor, award chairperson and board chairperson.** SUBMITTED PHOTO



SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Searles family welcomes Andrew John

Travis and Johanna Searles, of Agawam, are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Andrew John Searles. Andrew was born at Mercy Hospital on Dec. 16, 2014, at 7:44 a.m.

Andrew weighed 8 pounds, 9 ounces, and measured 21 inches in length at birth. He joins his brother, Jacob, 4, and sister, Emily, 2.

Maternal grandparents are Gary Masotti, of Westfield, and Lorin Fila, of Agawam. William and Brenda Searles, of Tolland, are his paternal grandparents.

Andrew's maternal great-grandparents are Jeanette Rodriguez, of Agawam, and Auris and Bertha Mahue, of Westfield.

Andrew's godfather is Michael Kokoska, of Three Rivers, and his godmother is Rosemary McKeever, of Springfield.

## Library offers children's programs for Feb. vacation

The Agawam Public Library will host the following children's winter programs. All programs are free but registration is required unless noted and may be done by going to [www.agawamlibrary.org](http://www.agawamlibrary.org). For more information, visit the library or call Youth Services at 413-789-1550, ext. 3.

Tween Craft Fun: Wednesday, Feb. 11, 7 p.m. Valentine Fun Craft Night. For students in grades 3, 4, 5 and 6. Have fun making a paper "roll-up" heart wreath.

Meet the Robots: Thursday, Feb. 19, 2-4 p.m. Demonstrations of robots designed and operated by Agawam school students in grades K-12. For ages 5 and older. Stop by the library and meet students from Agawam's Robotics teams and their robots. No registration required.

Greg & Axel Show presents "Do You Want to Build a Snow-

man?" Friday, Feb. 20, 3 p.m. For ages 3 and older. If you love "Frozen," you'll love this brand new magic show. Children will help with magical routines to create all the snowman's parts and at the end a snowman will magically appear. This totally unique entertaining experience provides magic, comedy, audience participation and one hilarious dog.

Winter Fun Festival: Saturday, Feb. 21, 1-3 p.m. For ages 3 and older. The Agawam Library Teen Council offers a fun afternoon of games, crafts, food and face painting. Participants may join the fun anytime between 1-3 p.m.

During the Winter Program Session, a collection will be ongoing for the Thomas J. O'Connor Animal Control and Adoption Center. Paper towels and canned dog or cat food may be dropped off at the Children's Desk.

## Humason named Senate minority whip

BOSTON — Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr, R-Gloucester, has named state Sen. Don Humason, R-Westfield, the Senate minority whip for the 2015-16 legislative session.

This is the second time Humason, who represents Agawam and several other communities in the state Senate, will serve in this leadership position. Humason will be responsible for coordinating the votes within the Senate Republican Caucus and assisting the minority leader in developing policy recommendations for the legislative session, while working to build further coalitions with members across the aisle.

"I am honored to be appointed minority whip by Senator Tarr once again," Humason said. "I appreciate his confidence in my abilities to navigate the legislative process in the Senate and build coalitions wherever possible. I am looking forward to continuing to work alongside my Republican colleagues in the Senate and with our Democrat colleagues as we serve the people of the commonwealth."

Humason was re-elected by the voters of the Second Hampden and Hampshire District in November of 2014, following his first successful bid in a special election in November of 2013 when he succeeded former Sen. Michael Knapik, R-Westfield, following his resignation to accept a position with Westfield State University.

Humason had been a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives since 2003 and had previously



State Sen. Don Humason

served as the director of legislative affairs at the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services, and Knapik's chief of staff in the House and Senate.

"I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to serve my district for a full two-year term while working with my friend and fellow Western Massachusetts colleague, Sen. Stanley Rosenberg, D-Amherst, the new president of the Senate, and my old friends Gov. Charlie Baker and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito in the Corner Office," Humason said. "Despite the challenges we face, there is a sense of optimism at the State House that we haven't seen

in some time. We are all, Democrats and Republicans alike, ready to roll up our sleeves and get to work in an open, transparent, collaborative fashion whenever possible to do our jobs and represent the citizens of Massachusetts."

The Second Hampden and Hampshire District consists of the cities of Agawam, Easthampton, Holyoke and Westfield, parts of the city of Chicopee, and the towns of Granville, Montgomery, Russell, Southampton, Southwick and Tolland.

Senator Humason maintains a district office for the convenience of his constituents and encourages them to contact him at his district office at 64 Noble St., Westfield, MA 01085, or by telephone at 413-568-1366; or his Boston office, State House, Room 213A, Boston, MA 02133, telephone 617-722-1415. His email address is [Donald.Humason@MASenate.gov](mailto:Donald.Humason@MASenate.gov). His website is [www.DonHumason.org](http://www.DonHumason.org).



**Mary Jean Bagley, who recently celebrated her 90th birthday, is pictured with the family dog, Gino.** SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Happy birthday, Mary Jean

Mary Jean Bagley, of Agawam, celebrated her 90th birthday on Jan. 19. Mrs. Bagley is the widow of Walter T. Bagley, a lifelong resident of Agawam and a World War II veteran.

She lived in their home on Main Street most of her married life, and then they moved for a brief time to Westfield. After the death of her husband in 1991, Mary Jean moved back to Agawam to the Senior Center housing. She currently resides with her daughter and son-in-law, Dee and Mike Ferrero, in Agawam. She has three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Mary Jean loves to read and visit with friends and family, watch "Golden Girls," her favorite TV show, and snuggle with the family dog, Gino.



PLAY ■ from page 1

can make someone react.” He added that he’s been a victim of minor bullying, “but not as much as many of my peers.”

Junior Kaylee Andrews played Glinda. She said acting like a “mean girl” was a challenge: “I’m nothing like Glinda. But by playing her, I learned something about what can make people become bullies.”

Andrews, 17, said she hoped the play “opened the eyes” of teens about how serious and hurtful bullying can be.

“It was a good opportunity to show junior high kids what can happen with bullying,” she said. “I’m proud to be part of the cast that put on this play.”

Delivering a powerful message

Pam Vallon-Jackson is an AHS English teacher and advisor to the Drama Club. When her club was asked by faculty and administrators to perform an anti-bullying skit or play to help promote a bully-free atmosphere at AHS, she found the “perfect play.”

“Thank You for Flushing My Head in the Toilet,” written by Jonathan Dorf, is intended to spark discussion about bullying and its potential effects on school-age kids. Vallon-Jackson said the play is “way more” than a skit. “It’s a very sophisticated, licensed production that has been performed by more than 250 high schools across the U.S.”

Vallon-Jackson said students fully embraced the challenge of performing the play — a dramedy — that uses some elements of dark humor to tackle a serious subject. At one point, Glinda asks Achilles and Helen, “Do you want to eat lunch or do you want to be eaten for lunch?”

It was a “big hit” when presented to AHS freshmen, said Principal Steve Lemanski. He said the play’s message about bullying is “very powerful,” and suggested students perform it at the junior high.

Ashley Gage, a senior who plays the harassed Helen, said the play is a more effective way to present the topic of bullying to students. “Kids see kids close to their own age acting on stage about a serious topic.”

Acting to prevent bullying

Gage said although bullying isn’t “a huge problem” at AHS, the play brings awareness to teens about bullying.

“Hopefully, our play helps kids think about bullying and how they may be able to prevent it. Because we’re easier to relate to than teachers, kids probably pay more attention to our play.”

Lussier added that the play conveys the dangers of bullying from the vantage point of students “closer to the age group” and “closer to school experiences” than teachers or administrators. Well-received by freshmen, he said it was important to then do the play for

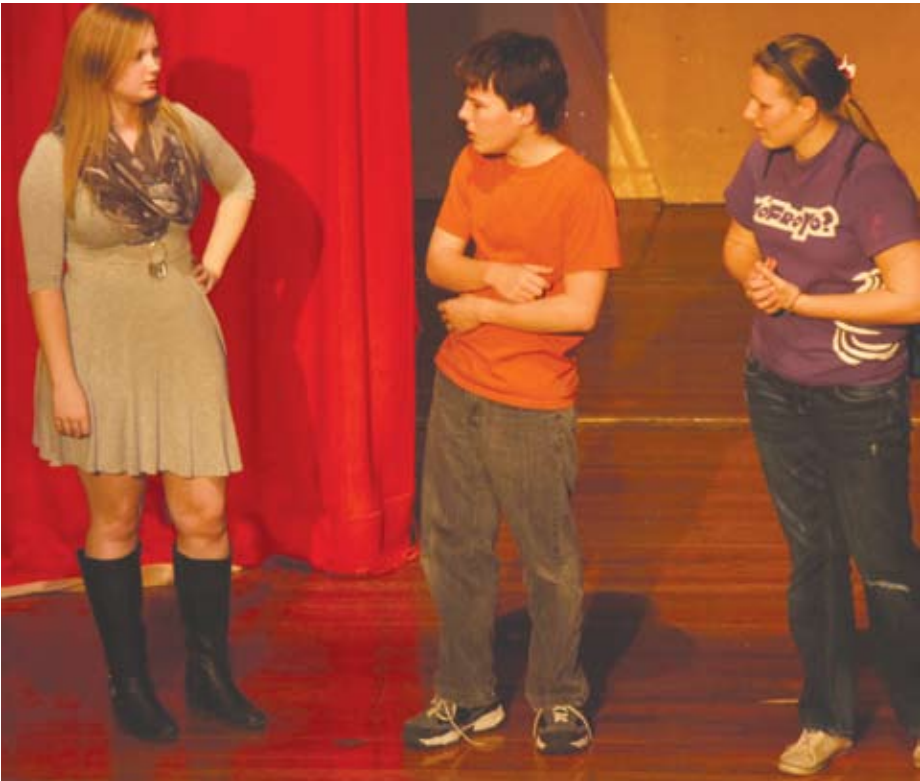
junior high students, so “they know about bullying.”

Following their performance, cast members answered questions from the audience. When one junior high school student asked the cast if any of them ever had been bullied, several raised their hands. One AHS student recalled being bullied when he was younger and attended summer camp. Another said her “worst” bullying experience was in junior high school.

Vallon-Jackson said the “rather intense and definitely thought-provoking” play is “a reminder that, at times, everyone feels vulnerable — even if we aren’t always aware of what others are going through.”



Achilles (Darren Lussier, left) is the target of a school bully (Frank Mastromatteo) in “Thank You for Flushing My Head in the Toilet,” recently performed for junior high school students by the AHS Drama Club. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY MIKE LYDICK



Glinda is a “bully buddy” from an alternate universe who offers Achilles and Helen a way out of their bullying experiences in “Thank You for Flushing My Head in the Toilet.”



AHS Drama Club students took their production of “Thank You for Flushing My Head in the Toilet” on the road to the junior high school after it was “a big hit” before AHS freshmen. Nearly 500 seventh and eighth graders watched the play.



Achilles (Darren Lussier, sitting) is bullied and tormented by other students (from left, Frank Mastromatteo, Alex Kiddy, Lyubislav “Luke” Ivanov, and Nathan Futrell).



Helen (Ashley Gage, left) harasses another girl (Sierra McDonald, sitting), during the play. Helen has been convinced by Glinda (Kaylee Andrews, right) that the way to escape being tormented by girls at her school is to become a bully like them.



# SPORTS

## HOCKEY

# Agawam turns down rival Bombers

By Gregory A. Scibelli

*Turley Publications Sports Correspondent*

AGAWAM – The officials at Amelia Park Arena in Westfield knew that last Friday night’s hockey matchup between Agawam and Westfield was going to be a hot ticket.

After pre-selling out the building, the two rivals battled with Elijah Bard providing the theatrics for Agawam in a huge 3-1 victory.

Agawam trailed in the game 1-0, but tied the score early in the third period.

With score tied, Agawam was on the attack and John Colwell took a shot on goal. Bard was also coming on toward the Westfield goal. When the puck glanced off Westfield goalie Garrett Matthews, it took just a quick flick for Bard to put the puck in the goal and give the Brownies a 2-1 lead with about 7:00 remaining in the game.

Agawam was not done working, though, and Westfield kept the pressure up.

Adding to their frustrations,

the Brownies, who have sent a lot of players to the penalty box this year, sent a player to the penalty box with about a minute left. With a pulled goalie, Westfield was able to play with a 6-on-4 advantage, something that has paid off for the Bombers in the past.

But the advantage did not last very long as defensemen Cory Pfau picked up the puck and launched it across the ice and into the Westfield goal with 59 seconds remaining to “ice” the game for Agawam.

The atmosphere at Amelia Park was electric the entire night as the game between Agawam and Westfield had huge playoff implications and league title implications.

Agawam and Westfield could be headed on a collision course to meet each other again in the Western Massachusetts Division 3 finals. In that case, Agawam will be looking to avenge their defeat from last year’s final.

Meanwhile, on the ice in Westfield, the Bombers got a 1-0 lead late in the first period on loose puck



Chris Breault circles around the Westfield goal trying to keep possession of the puck.

TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

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## BASKETBALL

# Young Brownies stop Comp

By Gregory A. Scibelli

*Turley Publications Sports Correspondent*

AGAWAM – The very young Agawam boys basketball team is now making a push for the playoffs with another great performance last Friday night.

The Brownies started out the season with a 1-7 record, but have since won four of five games. Even if they are not able to finish with the .500 record, the usual method of qualifying, they may squeeze through by securing second place or a second place tie in the Suburban League.

The Brownies moved closer in that direction when they avenged an early season loss against Chicopee Comp.

Agawam was down early, but had a huge performance in the second half and came out and scored a 69-64 win at Clifford P. Kibbe Gymnasium.

Comp was able to jump out to a huge lead, scoring basket after basket. Eric Perez would score a 3-pointer to really stick the Colts feet into the game and make it 17-5.

Bruce Carey followed with a trey of his own and Comp had a commanding 20-5 lead. John Wright was able to help Agawam grab a basket it at the buzzer in the first quarter to end a four-minute scoring drought for the Brownies.

The Brownies started on the comeback trail with Sean Moore hitting a long jumper 16 seconds into the second.

Wright scored again with a layup and it was 20-11. Moore would hit a free throw a bit later and Agawam was within 10 points. Joe Moccio would hit a pair of free throws to make it 24-16 Comp.

Alex Sours scored two straight baskets near the 3:50 mark to really put Agawam back in the game with Comp only leading 25-21. Comp was able to get back on track temporarily when Perez scored a trey.



Alex Sours takes a free throw. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

BASKETBALL | page 13

## WRESTLING

# Agawam garners league crown again

By Gregory A. Scibelli

*Turley Publications Sports Correspondent*

AGAWAM – The Agawam wrestling team has brought their season full circle.

After dealing with early season health issues, the Brownies have settled down, picked up their wins on Wednesday night, and now, they are league champions again.

The Brownies picked up a 48-22 victory over Longmeadow, celebrating Senior Night at Agawam High School.

Agawam had a huge turnout from their senior class. All of Agawam’s top talent was in action and picked up victories in the meet.

Among them was Anthony Basile, who is Agawam’s top finisher in last year’s tournament events. Basile made it all the way to the New England Tournament, overcoming some injuries to get to wrestle in the big

event.

Basile said two weeks ago against Ludlow he was battling a small injury, but was doing better. Basile did not wrestle against Ludlow, picking up a forfeit victory, but did have a match with Leo Sierra of Longmeadow at 152 pounds.

The contest did not cause a lot of stress on Basile as he picked up a very quick takedown and had a pin secured in just 24 seconds.

Also winning in quick fashion was Fred Karl-Morin at 195 pounds. Karl-Morin was hurt at the beginning of the season, missing time with an injury from football season. He scored an early takedown against Ian Lantzakis. It took him a bit longer to turn-over Lantzakia, but got the pin in just over a minute.

At the heavyweight position, Nick Hope needed a second period, but was able to

WRESTLING | page 13

## TRACK

# Agawam, Westfield split on track

*Reed takes top spot in shot put for Brownies*

By Dave Forbes

*Turley Publications Sports Staff Writer*

NORTHAMPTON - The Agawam boys and girls indoor track teams took part in the sixth week of competition at Smith College and ended up coming home with a split on Friday, Jan. 30.

The girls won over the Lady Bombers, 72-23, while the boys fell 63-28.

For the girls, senior Kaitlyn Marsh finished fourth in the 55 meters at 7.91 seconds. Senior Alexandria Stuetzel placed fourth in the 600 meters at 1:52.98. Sophomore Collette Groux came in fourth in the 1000 meters at 3:38.63. Sophomore Paige Hardy finished fifth in the 55-meter hurdles

at 10.21. Junior Grace Greene came in tied for fifth in the high jump at 4-07. Junior Kristin Brouillette finished fifth in the shot put at 26-06 3-4. Senior Annie Mozzer came in sixth in the 600 meters at 1:53.40. Senior Marisa Ewing came in seventh in the 1000 meters at 3:42.83. Junior Cassie Ayre placed seventh in the high jump at 4-05. Freshman Alyssa Montagna came in eighth in the 55 meters at 8.08. Sophomore Sarah Carron placed eighth in the 300 meters at 48.00. Senior Haley Pitrowski placed ninth in the 1000 meters at 3:45.04. Freshman Emily Bartlett came in 10th in the 300 meters at 48.27.

Agawam also placed fourth in the 4x200 meter relay with a time of 2:02.92.

TRACK | page 13



# Sports

**HOCKEY ■ from page 12**

opportunity with 40 seconds left. Sam Evans got a hold of the puck while a line change was transitioning. He passed off quickly to Chris Sullivan. Sullivan went on a diagonal pattern and shot left-to-right off goalie Connor McAnanama.

That was the only blip on McAnanama's performance, which was phenomenal. He made 29 saves against an aggressive Westfield offense.

The Brownies would finally tie the score with about 11 minutes left in the third peri-

od. Seamus Curran scored the first Agawam goal, using a screen play and taking a pass from Chris Breault and sending it home for the tie game.

Agawam qualified for the tournament with the victory and hold a perfect 8-0-2 record in the Berry League. Westfield is now 7-1-2.

*Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.*



Agawam's John Passerini, right fights for possession of the puck.



Zach Circosta leads a charge toward the Westfield goal. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

**WRESTLING ■ from page 12**

score a pinfall victory over Blaise Bernal. Hope is looking to make a big impact in this year's tournament. He is also nearing his 100th career victory. Coach Armando Ramos said Hope may reach that feat in the next week, prior to the Western Massachusetts Division I Tournament.

Other winners against Longmeadow included Daigon Bishop at 126 pounds. He was able to take control in his match early on, but his opponent, Kevin Barrett, would not allow him to finish the job. Bishop did pick up a nearfall, but settled for a 9-3 decision.

Troy Carroll got a pin at 138 pounds, winning in the second period, and Nick Blais was a 9-7 decision winner at 170 pounds. He defeated Max Stukalin.

Coming up on the second, Agawam is traveling for a tri-meet and is traveling to Billerica Saturday morning for a quad meet. The Brownies will take on Billerica, Marlborough, and Burlington. Agawam then closes out their regular season at Minnechaug at 7 p.m.

**TRACK ■ from page 12**

For the boys, senior Mike Reed won the shot put with a throw of 45-00 1-2.

Senior Cameron Czerpak finished third in the 1000 meters at 2:49.19. Junior Tom Howard finished third in the 55-meter hurdles at 8.59, and sixth in the 300 meters at 39.59. Senior Clement Hagenimana came in seventh in the 1000 meters at 2:59.34. Senior Jeff Leclerc finished eighth in the long jump at 17-09, and tied for ninth in the high jump at 5-03. Junior Troy Gallerani placed 10th in the 55-meter hurdles at 9.61.

Agawam also finished fourth in the 4x200 meter relay with a time of 1:44.33.

*Dave Forbes is the sports editor for Turley Publications. He can be reached at dforbes@turley.com or by calling 413-283-8393 ext. 237.*

**COLLEGE NOTES**

**Rackliffe named to MASCAC Women's Basketball Weekly Honor Roll**

WESTFIELD - Framingham State sophomore and Agawam resident Alycia Rackliffe was recently named to the MASCAC Women's Basketball Weekly Honor Roll.

She averaged 17.5 points, eight rebounds, 3.5 steals and 2.5 blocks in an 0-2 week for the Rams. She tallied 15 points, 11 rebounds and four steals in the 68-56 setback to Westfield State.

**Wysocki named to All-Star squad**

BOSTON - Caroline Wysocki, of Agawam, a junior at the Williston Northampton School, has been named to the Boston Globe's All-Star team for NEPSAC Class A-B Girls' Soccer Team.

She also received All-State honors for her play this season with the Wildcats. She has verbally committed to play Division 1 soccer at The University

of New Hampshire.

**Ritter helps out Wentworth**

BOSTON - Wentworth men's volleyball player and Feeding Hills resident Colin Ritter helped out the squad in a pair of 3-0 victories and a 3-1 loss.

Ritter had 32 assists and two blocks against Albertus Magnus, 30 assists and 10 digs against Regis, and three kills, two aces, 44 assists, 19 digs and four blocks against MIT.

**Monahan runs 800 at John Thomas Terrier Classic**

BOSTON - Agawam graduate and Westfield State women's track and field member Ashley Monahan competed in the 800 meters at the Boston University John Thomas Terrier Classic on Friday, Jan. 30.

She finished in a time of 2 minutes, 21.78 seconds.

**BASKETBALL ■ from page 12**

The trey allowed Comp to re-extend their lead to seven points, 30-23.

But the Brownies would continue to chip away, with Meesha Ohradka nailing a three-pointer to end the first half. Agawam trailed by just three at halftime, 31-28.

Agawam continued to chip away throughout the second half, and pulled away near the end. It was a familiar sight near the end of the game as the two teams were nearly deadlocked. The same situation happened in the semifinals of the Connecticut River Classic on Dec. 27, a game won by Comp by four points.

Comp was led by Perez with 15 points. Vitaly Popovichenko and Steve Velazquez each scored 14 points. As a team, Comp hit nine treys.

Agawam got 14 points from Ohradka, 12 points from Moore, and 11 points from Sours. All three did well from the free throw line.

Agawam is 4-2 in the Suburban League. The Brownies trail South Hadley and Comp by one win (both are 5-2) for second place. Longmeadow holds first place with a perfect 6-0 record. The Brownies are 5-8 overall.

Up next, Agawam plays at Ludlow Friday at 7 p.m. They host Belchertown Tuesday at 7 p.m.

*Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.*



John Wright dribbles down court while looking for an open teammate. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



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Sports

Agawam Little League 2015 registration

AGAWAM - Registration for the Agawam Little League spring 2015 season will take place at the Agawam Public Library on Saturday, Feb. 7th from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Registration fees are listed below and include team shirt, hat and socks. Players will provide their own baseball pants and belts. Please do not purchase pants and/or belts until meeting with your team's coach to determine what color to purchase.

Little League International has changed the league age determination dates for 4-9 year olds. Please visit [agawam-littleleague.com](http://agawam-littleleague.com) to view the age chart.

T-Ball Age 4: \$60.  
Instructional Age 5-6: \$80.  
Minors Age 7-9: \$100.  
AAA Age 9-12: \$100.  
Majors Age 10-12: \$100.  
Seniors Age 13-16: \$120.

Families with more than one child playing in the 2015 season will receive discounted pricing. The first child will be full price, second child will be half price and any additional children will be \$20.

Children living in West Springfield are eligible to play in Agawam Little League and will be eligible for any district tournaments if they are chosen.

We will accept cash or check and all major credit cards (VISA, MasterCard, American Express and Discover).

Wine, beer tasting to benefit hockey teams

AGAWAM—The Agawam Hockey Booster Club will hold a beer and wine tasting fundraiser Friday, Feb. 13, from 6:30 to 11 p.m. at the Springfield Turnverein, 60 North Westfield St.

Tickets for the event are \$25 per person and include a buffet dinner, additional cash bar and a raffle. All proceeds will benefit the Agawam hockey teams.

The event is sponsored by Frigo's and Towne Liquors. For tickets, call Lea-Ann Rivest at 413-789-1710.

Legals

**AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**  
**LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT**  
**January 28, 2015**

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam Public Library Conference Room, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA on **Monday, February 23, 2015 at 7:00 PM** for all parties interested in the appeal of Bell Atlantic Mobile of Massachusetts Corporation, LTD dba Verizon Wireless which is seeking a Variance from Section 180-97 of the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances which would allow for the construction of a telecommunications tower with less than the required distance from the base of the tower to the property line at the premises identified as 491 Mill Street.

**Doreen Prouty** Chairperson  
Agawam Board of Appeals  
2/5,2/12/15

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam Public Library Conference Room, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA on **Monday, February 23, 2015 at 6:30PM** for all parties interested in the appeal of SBA and T-Mobile which is seeking a Special Permit in accordance with Section 180-96, Paragraph A of the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances which would allow for the installation of wireless communication antennas and equipment to an existing tower at the premises identified as 369 Main Street.

**Doreen Prouty** Chairperson  
Agawam Board of Appeals  
2/5,2/12/15

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**  
Agawam High School  
**Bombers down Lady Brownies**

AGAWAM - The Agawam girls basketball team is still stuck on one win for the regular season, as they dropped their 11th straight game last Friday night against Westfield, 38-32.

In a defensive battled between the two teams, Westfield's defense for the first three quarters of the game was excellent. Agawam able to stay in the game for most of the first half, but Agawam allowed Westfield to go on a short to put the game out of reach.

Christie Mirski scored 12 points to lead the team. Meghan D'Amours had seven points.

The Brownies also lost at home against Minnechaug last Thursday night 35-28.

D'Amours led the Brownies with 10 points. Agawam was limited to single digits in each quarter of the game. Agawam played good defense near the end of game, but not enough to overcome the Falcons.

Agawam is 1-11 and faces Ludlow at home tonight at 7 p.m.

- Compiled by Sports Correspondent Gregory A. Scibelli

**SKIING**  
Agawam High School  
**Scherpa flies past competition**

AGAWAM - While Agawam girls skiing continues to struggle as a team, the Brownies Jillian Scherpa continues to have a phenomenal season.

She scored her fourth victory of the season in the giant slalom race on Jan. 29 at Berkshire East Ski Resort in Charlemont. Scherpa finished the race in 25.76 seconds. Agawam still placed near the bottom as a team, but Scherpa continues to cruise toward the Western Massachusetts Championship meet.

The Brownies race again in the regular slalom event Friday at 5 p.m. They will participate in the individual championship on Tuesday afternoon.

- Compiled by Sports Correspondent Gregory A. Scibelli

**‘Pink Out’ to support EvvGirl Foundation**

WEST SPRINGFIELD — The Agawam High School boys varsity hockey team will play the West Springfield High School hockey team Thursday, Feb. 5, at 5:30 p.m., at Olympia hockey rink off Riverdale Street.

Students are planning a “Pink Out” where all those attending will wear pink in support of the EvvGirl Foundation. In addition, proceeds from the 50-50 raffle will go to the foundation.

**Fishing swap meet set for March 8 at PAC**

AGAWAM - A fishing swap meet will be held at the Polish American Club, 139 Southwick St., from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sunday, March 8.

Buy, sell, trade new and used fishing and hunting gear, but no guns allowed.

The event is open to the public.

Polish Club concessions will be open with breakfast/lunch food and drink.

Free parking. There will be a \$2 donation accepted at the door. Children 12 and under free.

Raffle prizes to be awarded.

Table space and both space available.

Don't miss your opportunity to make some money selling your used fishing gear!

If you would like to sell your items or boat please contact Dave Dussault at 413-427-0846.



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All legal notices to be published in the *Agawam Advertiser News* should be sent directly to [klanier@turley.com](mailto:klanier@turley.com). Karen Lanier processes all legal notices for this newspaper and can answer all of your questions regarding these notices. Please indicate the newspaper and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Karen directly at 413-283-8393 x271.

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**Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.**

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# Obituaries & Church News

## Grace A. Lyne 1922 - 2015

AGAWAM – Grace Arline (Mahler) Lyne, 92, passed away Friday, Jan. 23, 2015, at Baystate Medical Center.

She was born in Dallas, Pa., to the late Annie (Longerberger) and the Rev. Andrew Mahler. Grace retired from Titeflex after many years of service. She was an active member of Grace Lutheran Church for years and the First Baptist Church in West Springfield. Her Christian faith was an important part of her life. An active churchgoer all of her life, Grace began every day reading her devotional.

Grace was a terrific athlete and sports were a big part of her entire life. In high school she set scoring records for the women's basketball team that stood for decades. She also played softball and in her later years and excelled in bowling. Grace was an avid Red Sox fan and knew every statistic and



kept accurate box scores. She also faithfully followed the New England Patriots and Penn State football.

Grace was predeceased by her beloved husband, Royal Lyne, on Dec. 9, 1987. She leaves her loving children, Robert Lyne and his wife Lucyann of West Springfield, David Lyne and his wife Maureen of Feeding Hills, and Sandra Wezowicz and her husband Richard of Somers, Conn. She loved being Nana to her seven grandchildren, David, William, Andrew, Matthew, Mark, Diane and Richard, as well as her 19 great-grandchildren.

One of 12 children, she is survived by her brother, Charles of Dallas, Pa., and Betty Kishbaugh of Berwick, Pa. There was a memorial service for Grace at the First Baptist Church, Piper Road, West Springfield. Burial will be in the spring at Paucatuck Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Parish Cupboard, 1023 Main St., West Springfield, or the Salvation Army, 170 Pearl St., Springfield, MA 01101. For more details, please visit toomeyobrien.com.

## News, upcoming events at Agawam Congregational

The public is invited to attend the Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St., “a place to call home — a people to call family.” Sunday service is at 10 a.m. with a children's message, church school fellowship and coffee hour following.

**Sunday, Feb. 8:** 10 a.m., Worship service, Undies Sunday, church school and coffee hour. Annual meeting of the congregation will be held.

**Thursday mornings:** 9:30 to 11 a.m., Playgroup. Open to the public. The program follows the Agawam Public School schedule.

**Sunday, Feb. 15:** 10 a.m., Worship service, Undies Sunday, church school and coffee hour.

**Monday, Feb. 16:** President's Day. Church office closed.

Loaves and Fishes meets at 4 p.m..

**Feb. 18:** 7 p.m., Ash Wednesday service. Lent begins. Saturday, Feb. 21: 7:30 a.m., Men's Ministry meeting at Bobbie J's.

**Sunday, Feb. 22:** 10 a.m., Worship service, Undies Sunday and dedication, church school, and coffee hour with “Faithful Friends.”

**Wednesday, Feb. 25:** 9 a.m., Newsletter collation. Pastor Greg E. Dawson and his wife, Rosemary, are always available for prayer after the service. Newcomers are welcome and members of the community are invited to participate in all church events. For more information, call the church office at 413-786-7111. Regular office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. until noon.

## Drive-through Ash Wednesday blessings available

The Agawam United Methodist Church, 459 Mill St., Feeding Hills (opposite the playing fields of Agawam High School) is once again offering a drive-through Ash Wednesday blessing for all those who are either too busy or otherwise hesitant to come inside the church. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Christian season of Lent, which concludes after 40 days with the celebration of Easter Sunday.

Pastor Ken Blanchard will offer ashes for people of any and all Christian denominations on Wednesday, Feb. 18, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4-5:30 p.m. at the circular driveway in front of the church. In addition to anointing foreheads with ashes, the blessing will include a brief prayer and benediction.

In addition to making this open to people throughout the community, the drive-through aspect makes it attractive for people with limited mobility or other health issues. People do not have to leave their cars. This is the second time such an approach is being offered by the Agawam United Methodist Church, instead of a traditional Ash Wednesday worship service inside the building.

For more information regarding the church, visit [www.agawamworship.org](http://www.agawamworship.org).

### ‘Mass of healing’ at Sacred Heart

Sacred Heart Parish in Feeding Hills will once again host the annual Mass of Healing and Anointing on Wednesday, Feb. 11. This celebration was instituted in 1992 by Pope St. John Paul II, who designated that day as the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, a special day in which to pray for those who are sick and suffering in any way.

Parishes from Agawam, West Springfield, Westfield, Southwick and Russell are invited to join in this special liturgy at 6 p.m. The Sacrament of the Sick will be available as well as the opportunity to be prayed over by one of the many priests and deacons that will be there for this event. Following the Mass there will be a reception at the Parish Center. All are welcome to attend.

### People of All Ages Read Newspapers

### Agawam Advertiser News Obituary Policy

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$50, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

*Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.*

### DEATH NOTICES

**Daponde, Yolande M.**  
Died Jan. 27, 2015  
Funeral Feb. 4, 2015  
Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home  
Agawam

**Grasso, Marlene D.**  
Died Jan. 27, 2015  
Funeral Jan. 31, 2015  
Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home  
Agawam

**James, Elizabeth L.**  
Died Jan. 24, 2015  
Private Spring Burial  
Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home

**Lyne, Grace A. (Mahler)**  
Died Jan. 23, 2015  
Memorial Service Jan. 31, 2015  
First Baptist Church  
West Springfield

**Mikszewski, Mary C.**  
Died Jan. 30, 2015  
Funeral Feb. 4, 2015  
Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home

**Perez, Rose Maire (Pignatare)**  
Died Jan. 28, 2015  
Funeral Feb. 2, 2014  
Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home

## Explore the importance of Mary

Sacred Heart Church will host “Mary: Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother,” a four-week DVD study by Dr. Edward Sri, Feb. 5, 12, 19 and 26. Filmed on location in the Holy Land, this study will place participants in the midst of the powerful drama of Mary's earthly life, taking them through her joys and her sorrows.

This study will be held in the parish center at 1061 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. Two opportunities are available. Sessions will be held from 10 a.m. to noon and again from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Study books are available at \$20 each but are not necessary to do the study.

For more information, call Jean Raczkowski at 413-786-8200, ext 3.

### Catholic Women schedule potluck supper Feb. 9

The Catholic Women's Club of Agawam will hold a potluck supper at the next meeting, Monday, Feb. 9, at 6:30 p.m. Members will be contacted by the phone committee for their choice of a favorite dish, meat, side or dessert. A brief meeting will take place, and a penny auction will round out the evening. Club members and their guests are welcome.



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## Auctions

**BY MGL C.255** Section 39A Hook Ups Towing and Transport, 199 West Ave Ludlow, MA 01056 is holding a private sale of the following vehicles to satisfy our garage keepers lien thereon for storage and towing charges.

2004 Buick Lesabre 1G4HR54K24U178438 owner Erik Jenkins. 2004 Dodge Neon 1B3ES56C94D613572 owner Sherri Denice Casey

## Auctions

**WINTERGARDEN AUCTION.** **SATURDAY,** February 7, 2015. 10:00 AM. Complete contents of the shop of longtime antiques dealer Monica Graveline of "YESTERYEAR ANTIQUES" including inventory & fixtures. Tables, chairs, display cabinets, desk, oriental & braided rugs, bookshelves, Victorian sofa, sofa table, lamps & lighting, beds, Haviland china, linens textiles & cloth, antique reference book collection, Blue Willow china, Belleek, Wedgwood, Hummels, porcelain bird collection, Franciscan ware, Delft, cut glass, depression glass, tea pot collection, tea sets, garden statuary, jewelry, file cabinets and more!! Visit www.wintergardenauction.com for PHOTOS!

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\*\*\*\*\*

## Services

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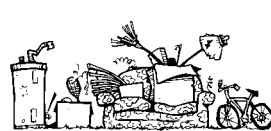
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# Classifieds



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**\*NEW STATE LAW.** Anyone advertising caring of children must list a license number to do so if they offer this service in their own home.

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**COMPUTERS SHOULDN'T BE** frustrating or frightening. I'll come to you. Upgrades, troubleshooting, set-up, tutoring. Other electronics too. Call Monique **(413)237-1035**.

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## Heating & Air Cond.

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Please apply in person: Caring Solutions, LLC 131 Elm Street West Springfield, MA 01089

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**DIRECTOR OF FOOD SERVICES.** Life Care Center of Wilbraham. Full-time position available. Candidate should be a chef, CDM or have food service supervisory experience to ensure the smooth operation of food delivery, supervision of employees and food preparation for special events. Excellent customer service and organization skills are a must. Long-term care experience preferred. We offer great pay and benefits in a team-oriented environment. Dennis Lopata **413-596-3111** | 413-596-9072 Fax 2399 Boston Rd. | Wilbraham, MA 01095 [Dennis\\_Lopata@LCCA.com](mailto:Dennis_Lopata@LCCA.com) LifeCareCareers.com EOE/M/F/V/D – 55423

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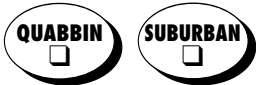
**PACKAGE STORE CLERK- P/T** Register experience. Hours vary. Some weekend work required. 21+ only. Please call Carol, leave message **(413)736-5664**.

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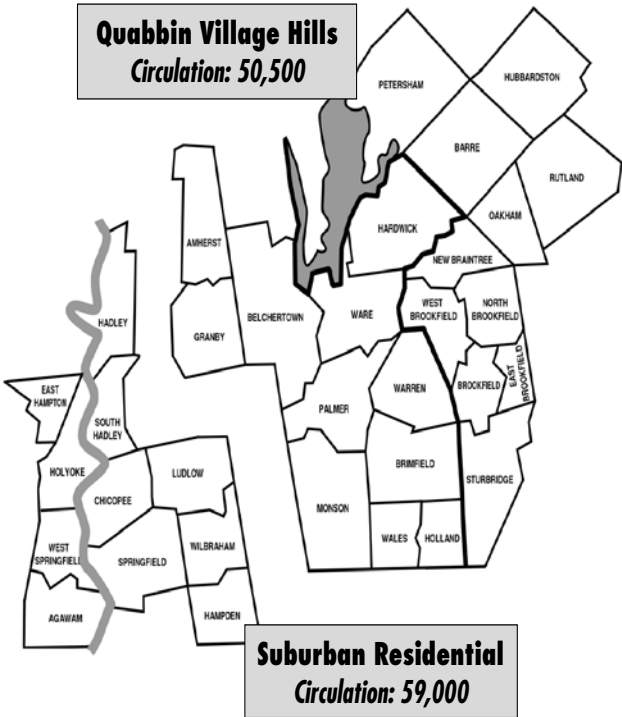
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Help Wanted

**PART – TIME Electrical Inspector** The Town of Ludlow is seeking applicants for a Part-Time Electrical Inspector to inspect residential, commercial and industrial buildings to ensure compliance with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts electrical codes and other related laws, codes and regulations or the safety of the public. The Electrical Inspector is responsible for reviewing all permits and responding to all correspondence regarding electrical matters. Working hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8am – 4:30pm. Applicants must possess a valid Massachusetts Journeyman Electricians License and a valid Commonwealth of Massachusetts Driver's License. Starting pay is \$21.39 per hour. Applications are available at [www.ludlow.ma.us](http://www.ludlow.ma.us) under the Human Resources Department or at the Town Hall, 488 Chapin Street, Ludlow. Closing date is 02/18/2015 at close of business or until filled.

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**WESTMASS DEVELOPMENT AREA** CORPORATION. Real Estate Development Office Assistant (Part Time Position). Provide on-site presence at Westmass Ludlow Mills office for 25 hours per week, 9am through 3pm including a 1 hour unpaid lunch break. **Skills and Experience:** Excellent computer skills in: Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, Adobe Acrobat. Excellent written and verbal communication skills. Strong organizational skills. Ability to prioritize work, and ensure accuracy of work. Strong customer service skills and ability to establish professional relationships with tenants, customers and vendors. Work independently focused on completing all required tasks. Multi-tasking ability and the ability to meet required deadlines. Confidentiality of company related business. Please submit your resumé to Marion Buck by email: [m.buck@westmassdevelopment.com](mailto:m.buck@westmassdevelopment.com) or Mail to: 255 Padgett St, Chicopee, MA 01022. Deadline for submittal is February 13, 2015.

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**SPENCER:** 3 BR cape recently renovated w.MA BR & BA and laundry on 1st floor. Updates, roof, siding, electrical, bathroom, kitchen, carpet, attic insulation wood floor refinished. \$175,000

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For Rent

FOR RENT



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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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**MONSON. 3 BEDROOM.** Completely renovated, propane heat, lower than oil, \$100 toward first fill-up. **NO PETS!!!** \$900/ mo. F/L/S (413)783-0192. Mr. Allen.

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Buy it!

Sell it!

Love it!

Drive it!



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**\$\$\$ AUTOS WANTED TOP** Dollar paid for your unwanted cars, trucks, vans, big and small, running or not. Call 413-534-5400.

**CASH FOR CARS:** Any make, model or year. We pay more! Running or not. Sell your car or truck today. Free towing! Instant offer: 1-800-871-0654.

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# Out & About

OUR CALENDAR SECTION is intended to promote "free" events, or those that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization. Paid events that are not deemed benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. The deadline to submit calendar items is Monday at noon. Send to the Agawam Advertiser News at [aan@turley.com](mailto:aan@turley.com), fax to 786-8457, or mail to 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. We usually print at least one week prior to an event. The listings should be brief with only time, date, location, activity explanation and contact information.

## Friday, Feb. 6

THE ACC APPLAUSE SERIES will focus on the fashions of the Regency Period, and Jane Austen's literature in particular at 7 p.m. when Haddam Stage Company Artistic Director Kandie Carle will present "Fashion in Fiction: Clothing Speaks Volumes in Jane Austen's Novels" at the Agawam Public Library.

## Wednesday, Feb. 11

THE AGAWAM COMMUNITY ARTISTS AND ARTISANS will meet at 6:30 p.m., in the community room of the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. The featured guest will be Carol Ostberg, who will demonstrate painting on wood and furniture. Guests are welcome.

THE ELM-BELCHER MASONIC LODGE, 53 River St., Agawam, will hold an all-you-can-eat spaghetti supper. Cost is \$8 for adults, \$4 for children. The public is welcome.

## Saturday, Feb. 14

WILD BIRD PROGRAM FOR YOUNG VISITORS at 1:30 p.m. at Springfield Armory. Wildlife biologist Tom Ricardi of the Massachusetts Bird of Prey Rehabilitation Facility brings a live owl, hawk, golden eagle and a falcon to see up close. Learn which live nearby and about their environment, species, habitat, and conservation efforts.

## Sunday, Feb. 15

THE MELHA SHRINERS will host their annual "Chili Cook-Off" from noon to 3 p.m. at the Melha Shrine Center, 133 Longhill St., Springfield. Proceeds from the fam-

ily-friendly event will benefit the Melha Shrine Center.

THE WEST SPRINGFIELD COIN CLUB will meet at 7 p.m. at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 214 Elm St., West Springfield. A small auction will take place and refreshments will be served. Guests welcome. For more information, call Peter Setian at 413-569-9871.

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY WORKER DOLL MAKING WORKSHOP at 1:30 p.m. Park Ranger Jennifer Zazo-Brown will introduce young visitors to men and women who worked at the armory. They will then craft their very own armory worker doll out of recycled cloth and wire materials.

## Thursday, Feb. 19

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY WORKER DOLL MAKING WORKSHOP at 1:30 p.m. Park Ranger Jennifer Zazo-Brown will introduce young visitors to men and women who worked at the armory. They will then craft their very own armory worker doll out of recycled cloth and wire materials.

## Saturday, Feb. 21

YOUNG VISITORS ARE INVITED to join Ranger Susan Ashman at 10 a.m. at the Springfield Armory to make a bird feeder using a pinecone, sunflower butter, and birdseed. Learn which kinds of birds live on the Armory grounds. Participants then bring their feeders home and hang them in the perfect location.

## ONGOING

ADULT DROP-IN SIT AND KNIT meets every Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library. No registration needed.

AGAWAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 459 Mill St., Agawam, offers "Crochet Club" every other Tuesday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. This club is open to all needle-workers, including crocheters, knitters, quilters, and embroiderers. For more information, call 413-786-7991.

THE LADIES GLEE CLUB AND MEN'S CHOIR at the Springfield Turnverein are back to work. Practice is held every Wednesday with the ladies beginning at 7 p.m. followed by the men at 8:30 p.m. All are welcome. There

is space available for anyone interested in joining.

A BLOOD CANCER SUPPORT GROUP meets the fourth Tuesday of each month, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Agawam Senior Center conference room. A light dinner is served. For more information or to register, call (413) 789-0200, visit [www.springfieldmed.com](http://www.springfieldmed.com), or email [survivorshipprogram@gmail.com](mailto:survivorshipprogram@gmail.com).

A BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, 6 to 7:15 p.m. at office of Maryann Paleologopoulos LICSW, Inc., 2 South Bridge Drive, Suite 1B, Agawam (at the rotary). Refreshments served. For more information or to register, call (413) 789-0200, visit [www.springfieldmed.com](http://www.springfieldmed.com), or email [survivorshipprogram@gmail.com](mailto:survivorshipprogram@gmail.com).

THE AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH FAMILY PLAYGROUP, which takes place at the church at 745

Main St., Agawam, is open to children birth through age 5 with a parent or caregiver and meets weekly on Thursdays from 9:30-11 a.m. It includes crafts, stories, songs, free play and more. For more information, call 786-7111 or email [jbrownacc@verizon.net](mailto:jbrownacc@verizon.net).

A CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP meets the third Thursday of each month, 6 to 7:30 p.m., at the office of Maryann Paleologopoulos LICSW, Inc., 2 South Bridge Drive, Suite 1B, Agawam (at the rotary). Refreshments served. For more information or to register, call (413) 789-0200, visit [www.springfieldmed.com](http://www.springfieldmed.com), or email [survivorshipprogram@gmail.com](mailto:survivorshipprogram@gmail.com).

YOUR CAR, TRUCK OR CAMPER may be worth more as a donation than a trade-in. Call the Massachusetts Association for the Blind at (888) 613-2777 for more information. Towing is free. All donations are tax deductible.



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# DARE grads challenged to make positive decisions

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

Last Friday afternoon, half of the fifth grade students at Roberta Doering School took the challenge of Mayor Richard Cohen to make positive decisions and avoid drugs and alcohol at the 29th DARE graduation at the school.

The ceremony was led by Officer John Field and included messages from dignitaries including Cohen, Superintendent William Sappelli, and Safety Officer Sgt. Jennifer Blanchette.

All three emphasized the value of DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) and learning the dangers of negative behaviors, including smoking, drugs and alcohol abuse. Cohen praised the fact DARE is still taught in Agawam while many other schools in the region have discontinued the program.

The other half of the fifth grade will graduate from the program in June. The program began in 1986, Field said.

Officer Karen Langevin is also a DARE officer in the district.



From left, Police Sgt. Jennifer Blanchette, Assistant Superintendent Allison Leclair, School Committee members Wendy Rua and Shelley Reed, Mayor Richard Cohen, Roberta Doering School Principal Susan Federico, Vice Principal Charles Joyal, and DARE Officer John Field pose with essay contest winners Isabella Hill, Ashlyn Thomas, Dylan Wesley and Cameron Chrisanthopoulos. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Jacob Kulas shakes hands with Principal Susan Federico after receiving his certificate at the Jan. 30 DARE graduation.



Dylan Wesley reads his winning essay about what he learned in DARE.



Agawam Police Officer John Field welcomes parents and students to the graduation.



Fifth graders Samuel Melnik and Amanda Moquin shake hands with dignitaries as they graduate from DARE.



Mayor Richard Cohen addresses the students up close.

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